佐武と市捕物控 13

―散桜記（ちりぬるを）―

石森章太郎

SHOGAKUKAN BUNKO

■困った娘を見すてておけぬ。娘を守って、銀平が、人を殺めてその為に、娘に嫌疑がかかってしまう。下っ引きの銀平は、打ち明けようにも佐武親分に、迷惑かけてはいけないと、ついに自害の道をとる。桜散るよりいさぎよい、男銀平心意気。佐武・市一番の大事件。佐武の心を憂らせた。

デザイン　玉井ヒロテル
カバー装画　角田純男

佐武と市捕物控 13
石森章太郎

283
小学館文庫
330

佐武と市捕物控

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――散桜記

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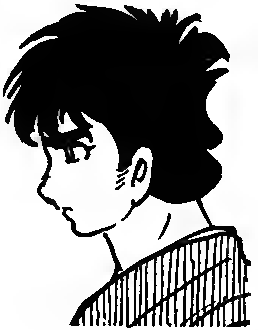
Shogakukan Bunkos
Sabu and Ichi's
Detective Stories
Volume 13
By Shotaro Ishinomori



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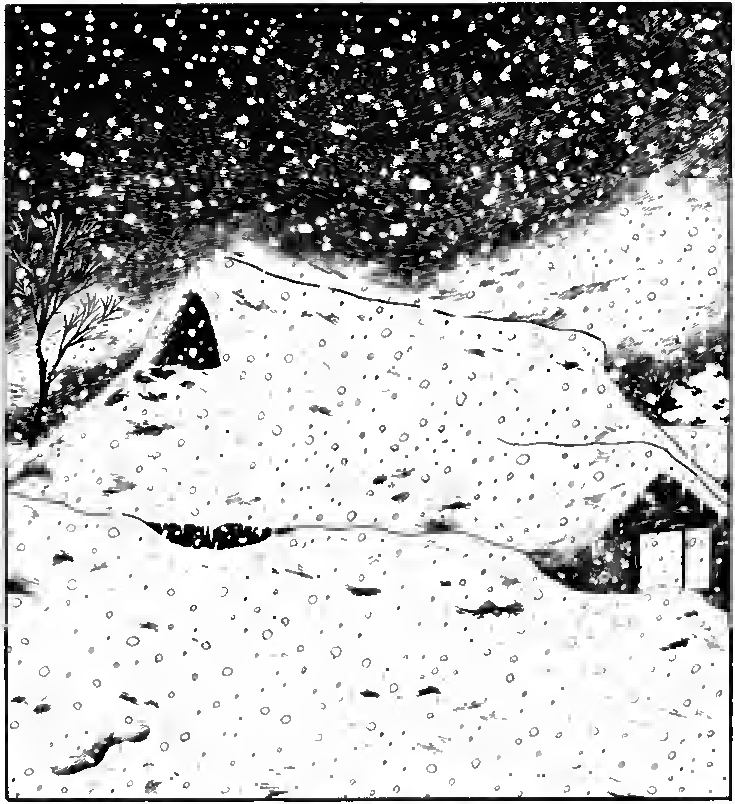
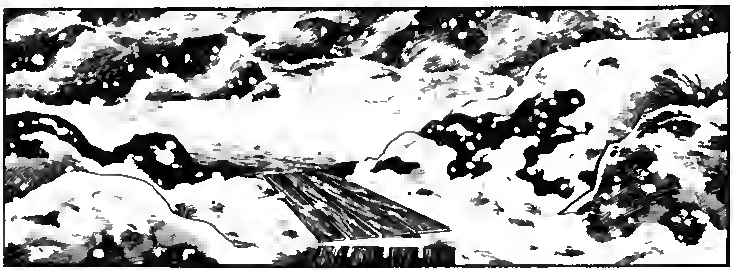
Sabu and Ichi's Detective Stories Volume 13 Contents

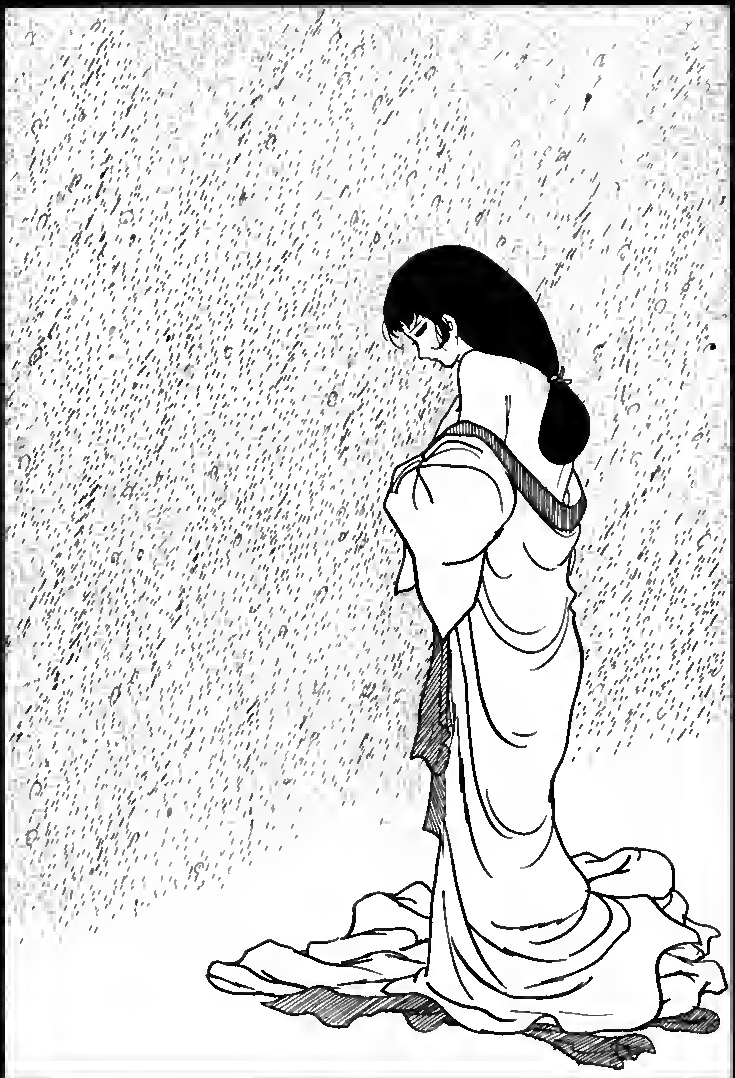
Chapter 77: The Snow Woman Who Embraced the Bonfire
Chapter 78: The Pussy Willow and the Winter Daphne
Chapter 79: Open Veranda on a Misty Night
Chapter 80: Chronicles of the Scattered Cherry Blossoms
Chapter 81: Pursuit
Chapter 82: Snow Aphid
Chapter 83: The Frozen Blood

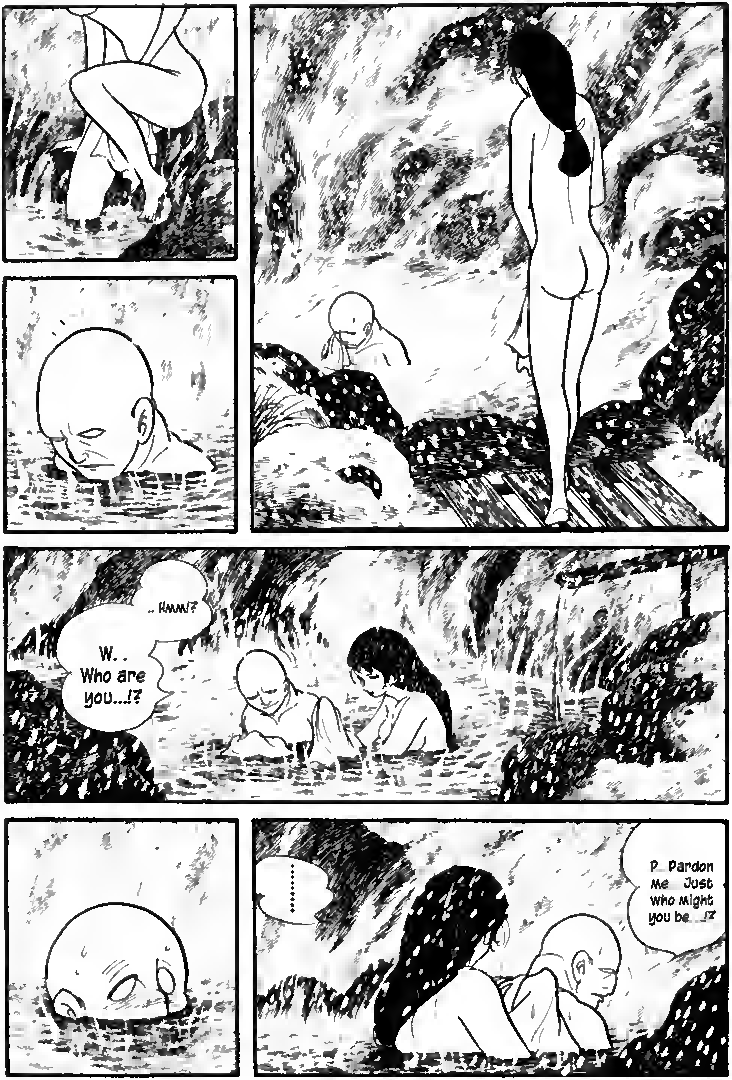
Cover Illustration by Gen'ichi Takise

Chapter 77: The Woman Who Embraced the Bonfire








..Hmm!?
W..
Who are
you...!?
P..Pardon
Me Just
Who Might
you be...!?

I could have her be your guide for the night...
Heh.. If you would like...
Heh.. hehe... Masseur, how did you like that woman?
..No, she's not a trollop at all
..She's just an amateur in certain circumstances. that we can't disclose..

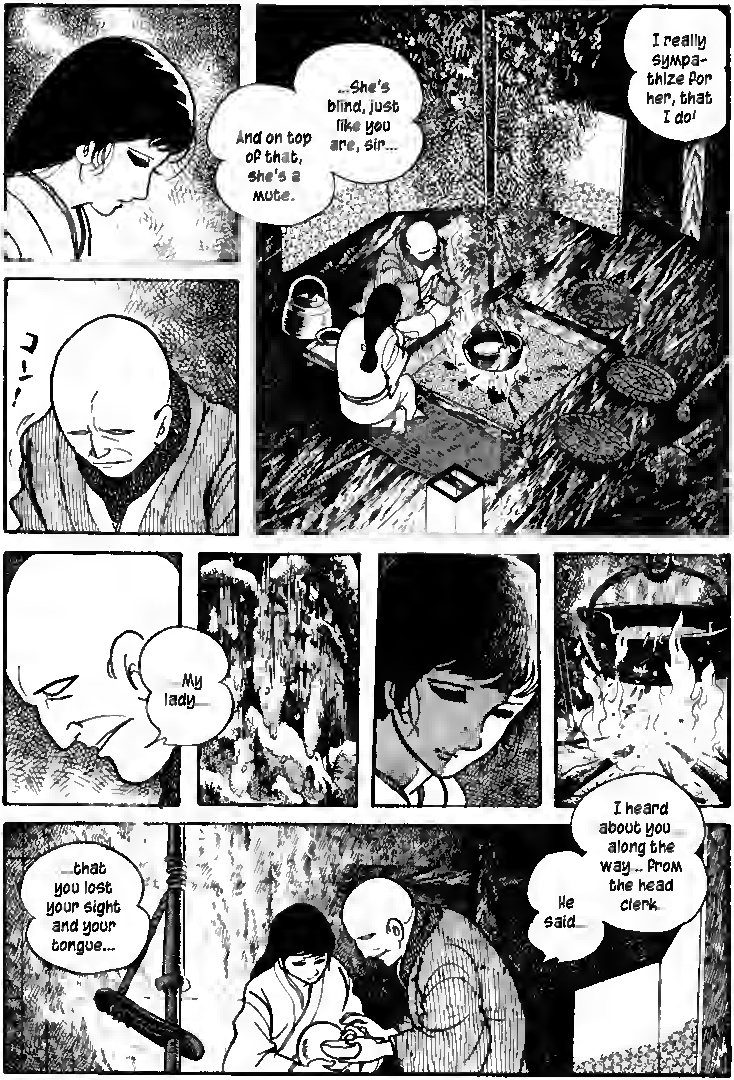
Come on over here... We have food and wine... all waiting for you!
Oh, Ichi!
...truly grateful that you were with us, Ichi
...We are truly...
Heh... Oh, it's nothing...
We may have simply invited you along, but you wound up becoming a bodyguard for us...
You got that right!
Back on the mountain pass... who would've known what would've happened to us if we were alone!
Heh... hehe...
In fact, those dangerous highwaymen actually gave me a sense of relief.
If I didn't at least provide some sort of service to you...
Not only do you request my services daily... but you allowed me to accompany you to such a great hot spring resort...
...Master Yukiya... Ma'am...

I must say, I never expected the open-air bath to be so stylish .. Ehehe...
So I thank you
Hehehe, well of course... that suits me just fine...
Well, if you'll go that far... then I also say it was worth bringing you along...
Quite to the contrary... It's not quiet or boring at all here
Ma'am,
But I was worried you might be bored...
It is indeed quiet... A perfect place for elders like ourselves...
Oh, you say so...? Then I shall give it a chance later...
Huh?
The Snow Woman?
And it's turned into a complete uproar!!
have frozen to death because of her...
In just the past month, five or six travellers...
The Snow Woman!
The Snow Woman shows herself here!

So because of that, men stagger after her... naked as the day they're born...
She wears a milk-white garment, with her long, obsidian black hair swaying in the wind... and she apparently seduces men!
Yes, that's right.
Naked!?
The only man who somehow managed to survive is the head clerk here now.
Uh... If you want to know of it in more detail...
..Well, I'll send him around later..

.....
That must be just a story they had ready to entertain their guests Hehehe ..
I'll bet.
Hehehe .. All because I had to say "bored" ..
Pardon my intrusion.
Oh?
That voice...!?
...I was a travelling medicine peddler...
.....
But when I came to, I was alone in the snow...
and I thought I was surely sleeping with a woman,
...I stripped down,

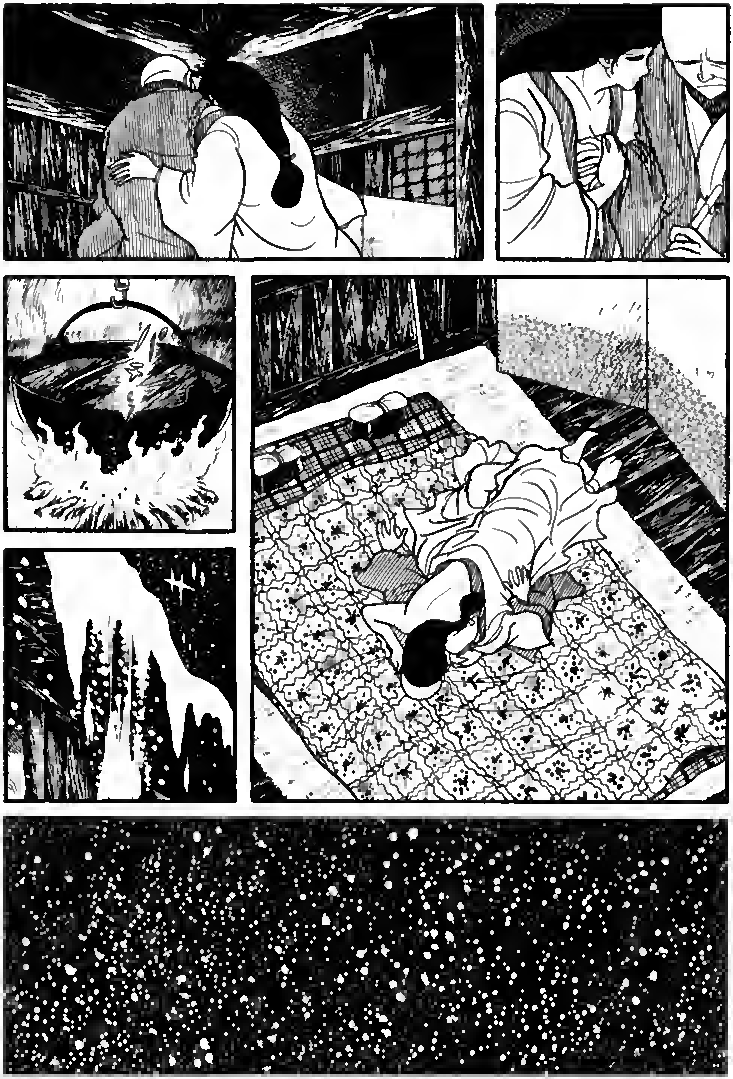
So I've been working at the head clerk of that store .
And... My garments and medicine box were nowhere to be found...
Then... I thought that had I noticed any later... I would have frozen to death, and that sent a chill down my spine...
...And it was when I started working there that I learned about that woman...


And on top of that, she's a mute.
...She's blind, just like you are, sir...
I really sympathize for her, that I do!
ユーー!
My lady...
...that you lost your sight and your tongue...
He said...
I heard about you along the way... From the head clerk.

...Five years ago in Edo... when you were ravaged by a terrible fever...
And the doctor's bill left you in such a mountain of debt to this couple here...
that you had to move here from Edo...
I've been blind far longer than you have... Hehehe...
...Now I'm going to do this on my own, so please don't mind me.
.....
Just like the story of the Snow Woman, the Head Clerk's tale... didn't seem quite trustworthy... But seeing your actions after coming up here...
...She left her child...
as loan collateral when she left Edo.

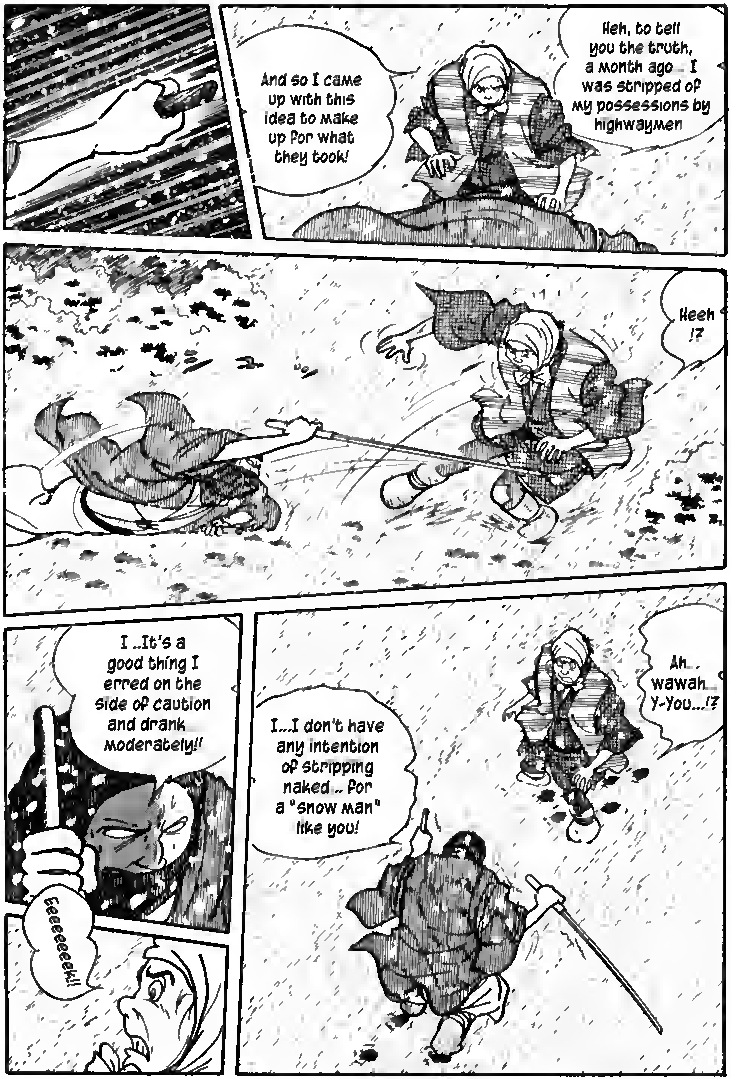
...So, that led to this...
And who knows how long it would take for her to bring back her child at that rate...
But... Her delicate and not-so-sturdy husband's earnings could barely put food on the table for the both of them...
About two months ago, her husband took all the money they had saved up and left for Edo.
This time, it was her husband that fell ill...
..and he used the money for their child...!
However... Poor luck persists forever!
When she heard the news... she began laying her hand on the customers again...
. And it wasn't enough ...!
.....

I plan on talking to him about your loan later...
...I-I know... the kind manager of a major store.
シュバッ!!
...And I will come back tomorrow with his reply... So I must excuse myself now...
...Thank you so much...
For the delicious wine.
.....
...I'M fine!
Oh... No... I'M fine!
Uhh!



...My lady.. I swear I'll be back with a favorable response...!
Urk!!
I don't think I had that much to drink... Am I drunk...!?
Oh ...?
Huh ...!?

There was something... in the wine!!
I-It's the wine! Ur-rrrgh!
...And while you sleep, you'll freeze to death...
There was a sleeping drug in it!
Heh... Hehehe... Precisely.
So you two... were in league after all!!
Y-You bas-tard!
Alright, then, it's time to take your posses-sions...
Hehehe... I'm just manipulating her and her desire for money.
No, the woman doesn't know anything.

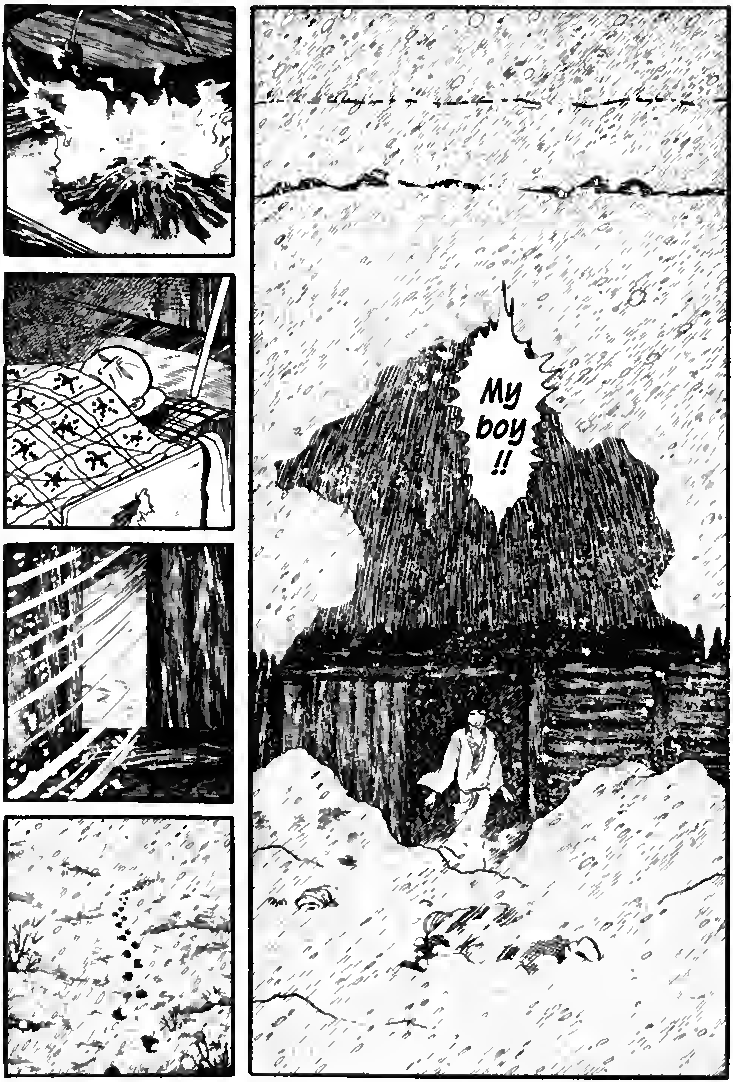

And so I came up with this idea to make up for what they took!
Heh, to tell you the truth, a month ago I was stripped of my possessions by highwaymen
Heeh !?
I..It's a good thing I erred on the side of caution and drank moderately!!
Eeeeeeeek!!
I...I don't have any intention of stripping naked... For a "snow man" like you!
Ah... wawah Y-You...!?

Waaaa aaaugh!
Unnngh... Wait! Get back here... y-you...
Bring out the money! All tha money you cheated out of thosa men I brought...
T-The money!

When I told you to bring more because it wasn't enough...!
What I told you was an utter lie!!
...Heh, that's right.
Uhh ..!?
...Where did you hide it!?
..Hurry !?
Your husband and son were on their way here... but they were assaulted with me by highwaymen at the pass... and were murdered!!
But that your husband used money for his illness... That was my fabrication!
...It was true that I joined him in his journey... and heard of your tragic tale...

Ah, ah, ah... M-My boy!! Dear...!!
Gweeh!
Y-You're... able... to talk now...!?
Heh..
Ahhhhhh!
W-What good would lying to you do... at this point...?
Kch,
T-They can't be dead.. That's a lie!!
N.. No!
Uweeh!

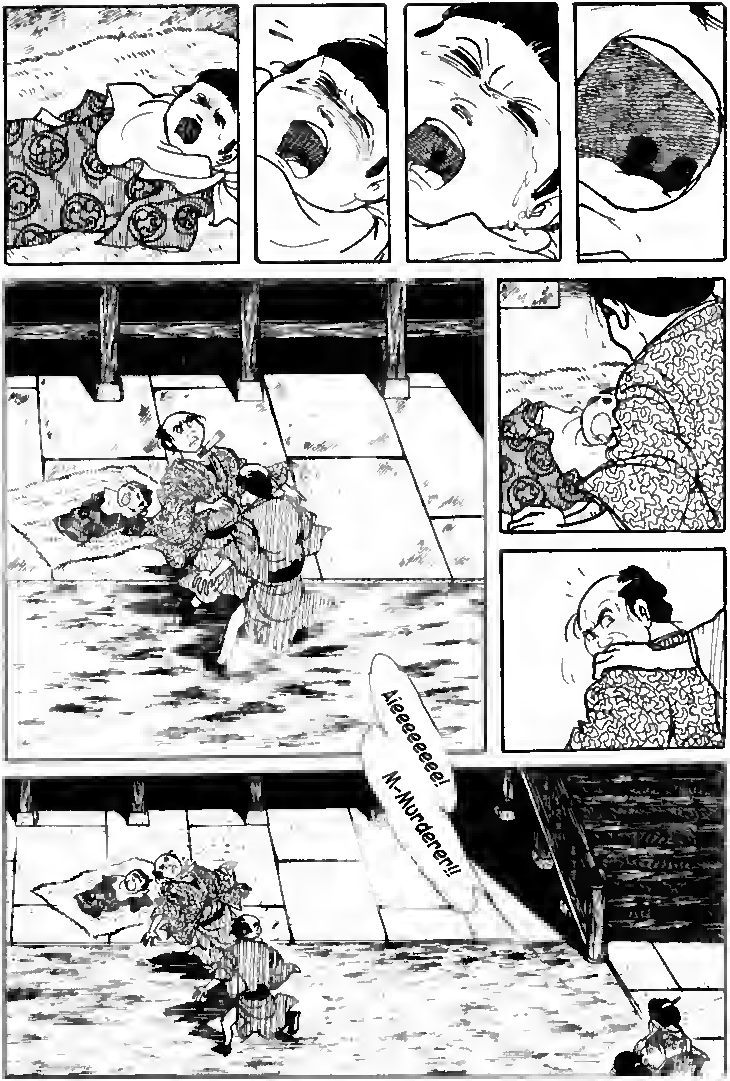
Geh!!


My boy !!

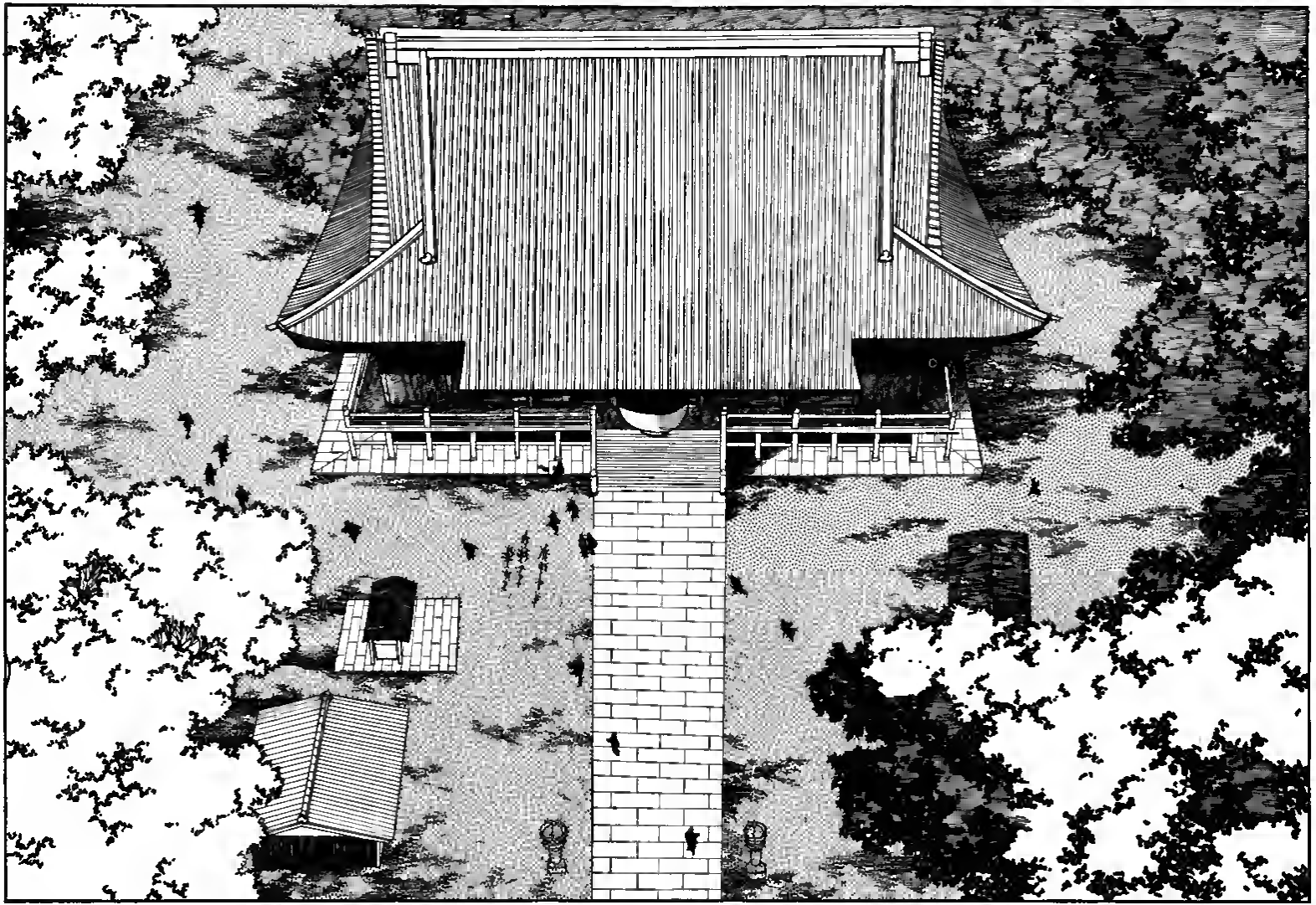
January 1971: "The Snow Woman Who Embraced the Bonfire" (FIN)

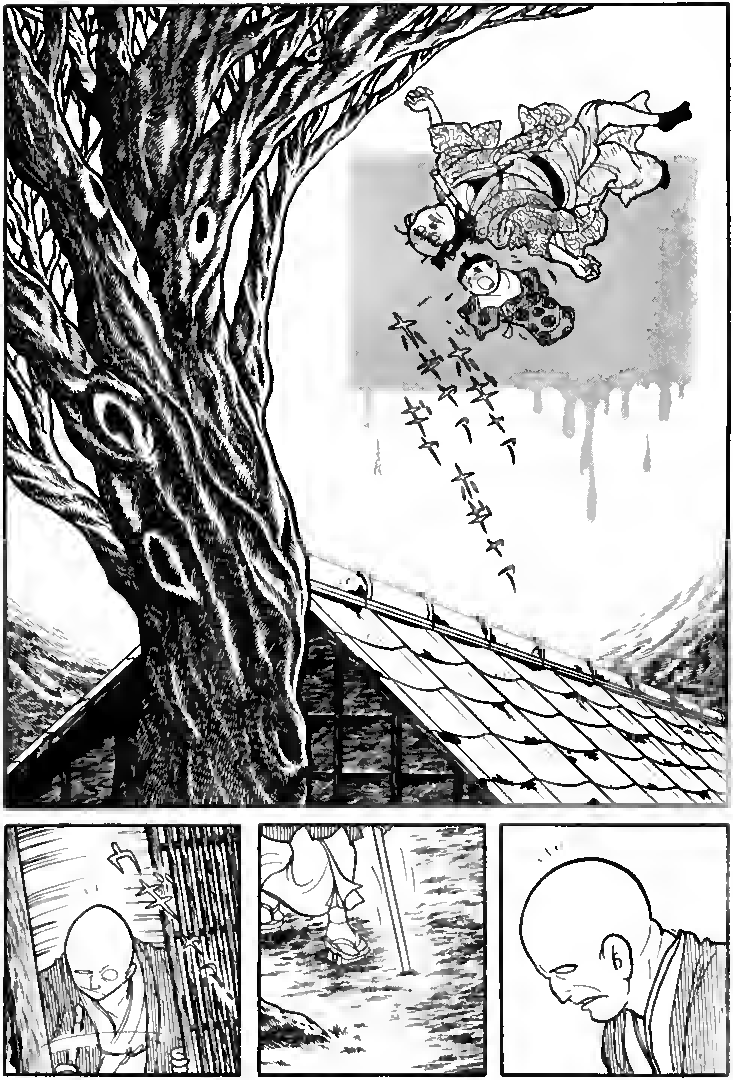
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 77
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 78: The Pussy Willow and the Winter Daphne


Aieeeeeeee!
M-Murdener!!

ホホホホホ
ワワワ!!
ワワワ…
ホホホホホ

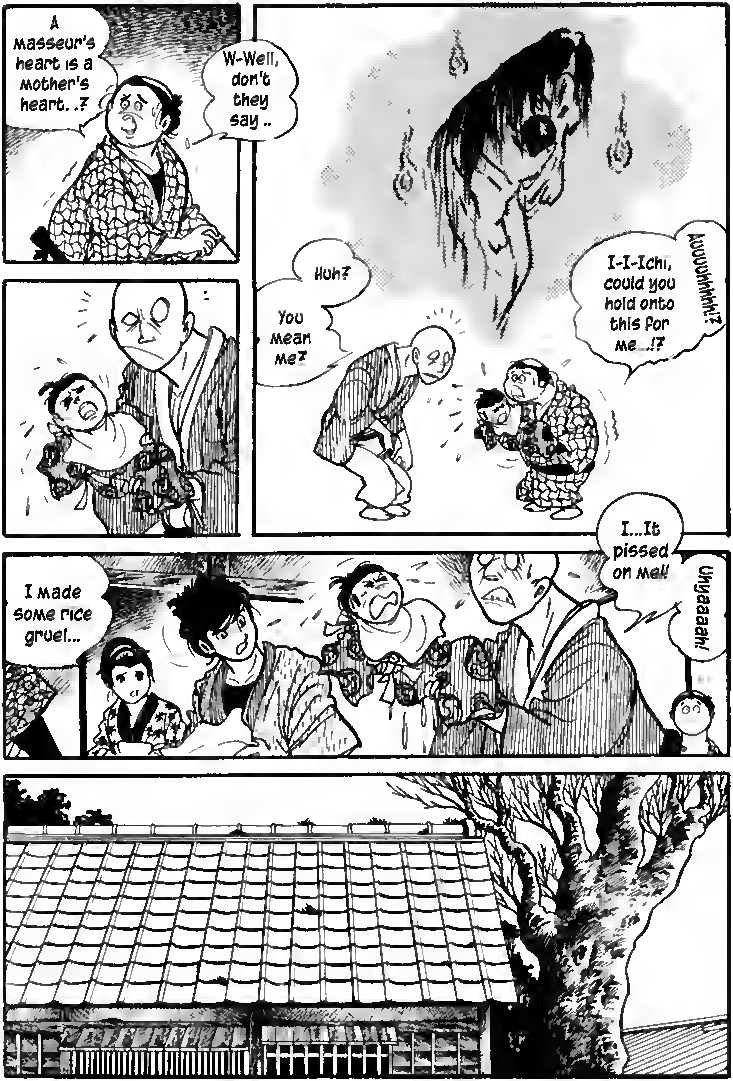


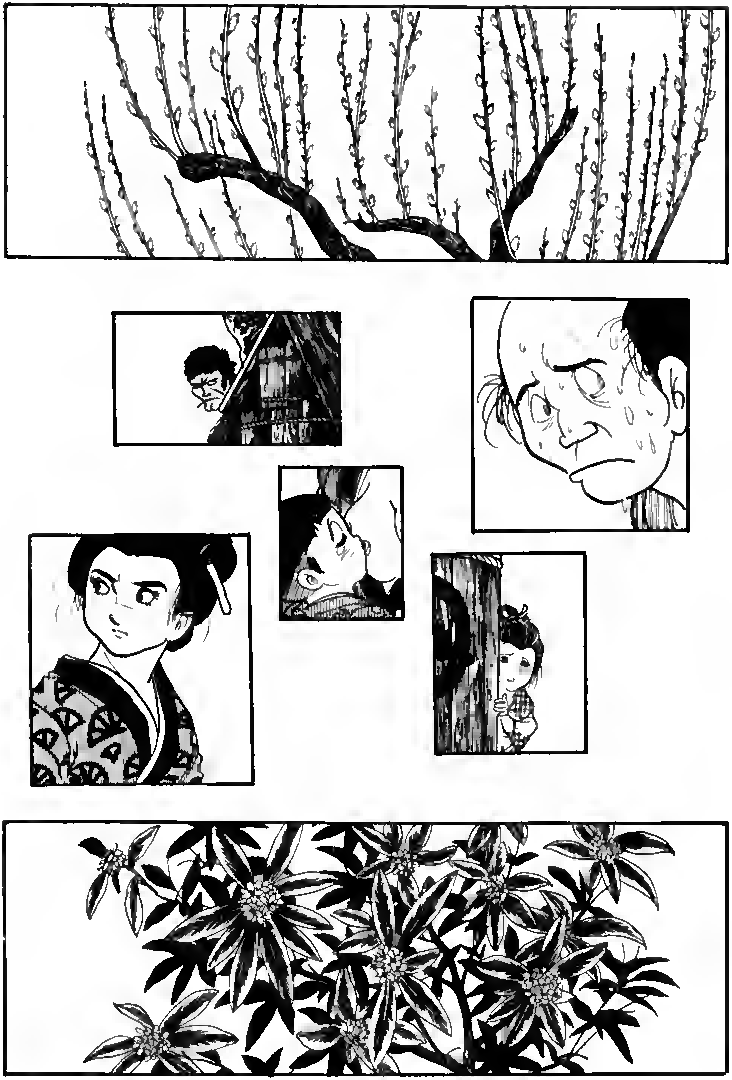

ギャアア
ギャアア
ギャア
ギャアア

I never heard anything about this... Midori had a baby!?
ワナワナ
ギャア
What's going on?
W-What?
S-She's right... Sir Tanabe left it with her...
Huuuh!?
This baby was a blessing... I mean, left in my charge...
E-Enough of your tom-foolery, Ichi!
No, no, no!
You see...
When did Sir Tanabe have a baby, and with who...?
It's Sir Tanabe's!?

...But what can I do about it? I've never even had a child before..
W-Well, that's easy for you to say...
H-Hey, can't you just stop it from crying!?
No, she can't, even though she's a woman.
Hehehe, but you will soon enough..
Well, let me handle him for now..
They couldn't just leave a baby at the guard-house, so...
Yeah, that's what happened.
...Hmm, a dead body with a child...!?
Ohhh, there, there, there..
No, bro! You gotta treat babies like this...
H-Hey, hey, Bubamatsu... You can't just swing it around willy-nilly!
...Sir Tanabe told me... Sabu, take this baby for now... at your house..

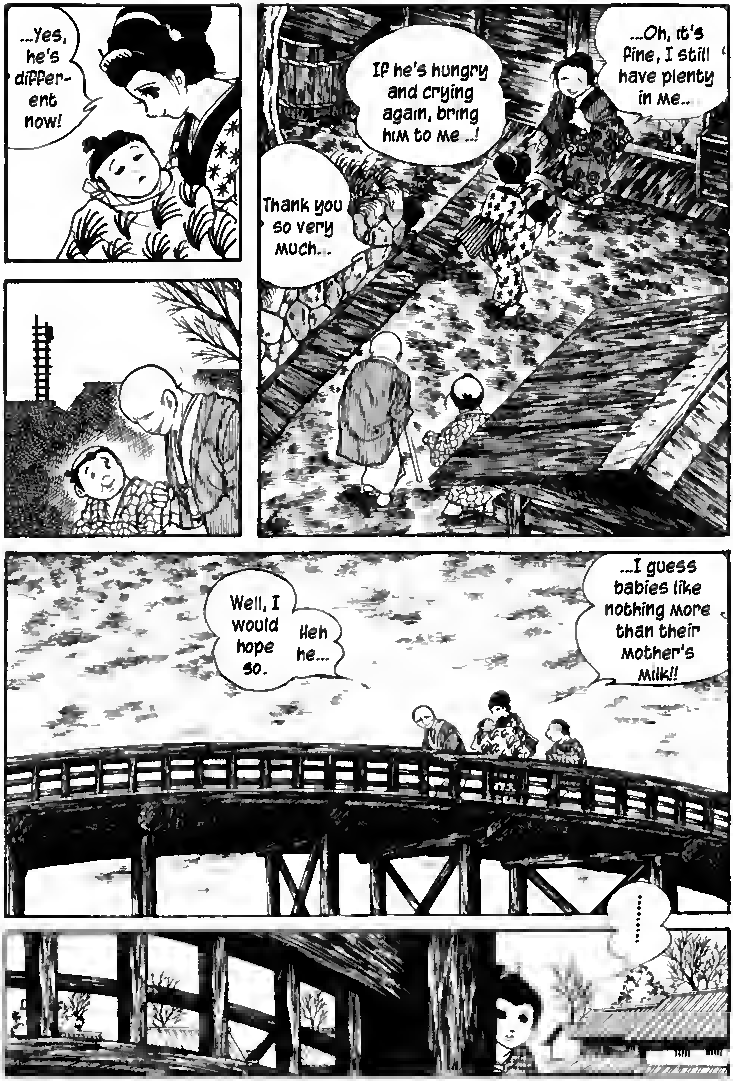
Huh? What's that, Gin..?
S-So could that have...
the route to this baby's house or something...?
...It's a map...
..The X is right on top of a grave-yard..!
Doesn't look like it

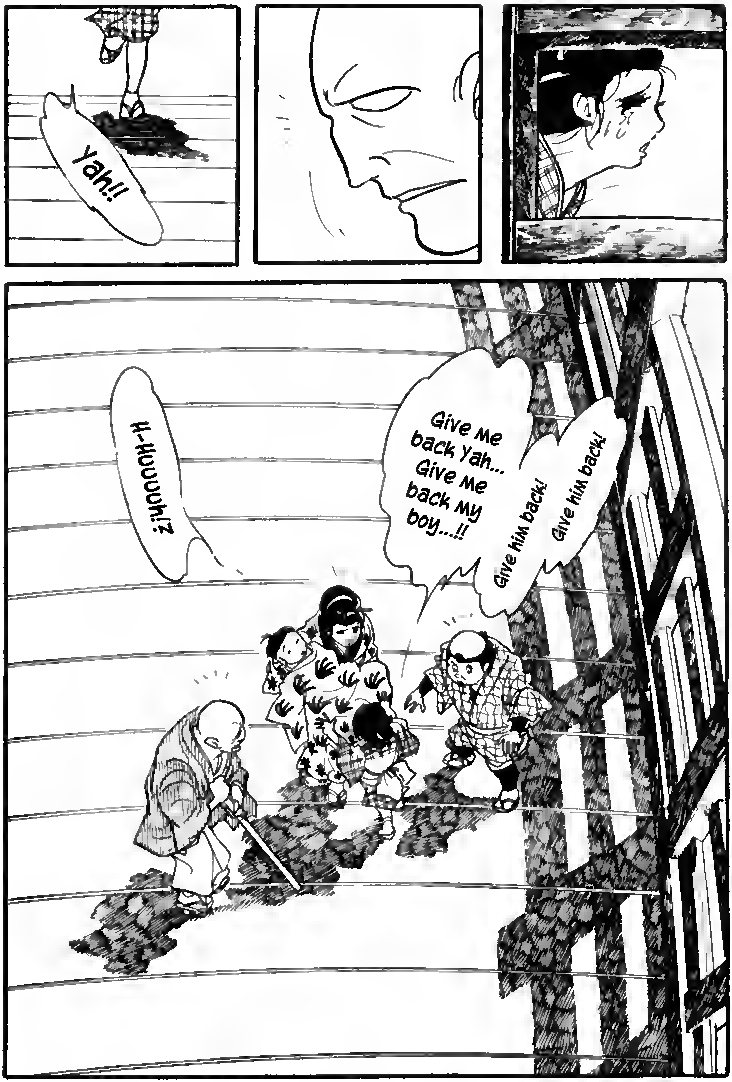

A masseur's heart is a mother's heart..?
W-Well, don't they say..
Huh? You mean me?
I-I-Ichi, could you hold onto this for me..!?
Auuuuhhhh!?
I made some rice gruel...
I...It pissed on me!!
Uhyaaaah!



...Three from the East, seven from the West...
...which would make it this one...!?
.....
Alright, Gin. Dig it up.

...Boss, it's a money box!!


...Yes, he's different now!
...Oh, it's fine, I still have plenty in me...
If he's hungry and crying again, bring him to me ...!
Thank you so very much...
...I guess babies like nothing more than their mother's Milk!!
Heh he...
Well, I would hope so.
.....


Yah!!
H-Huuuuh!?
Give me back Yah... Give me back my boy...!!
Give him back!
Give him back!

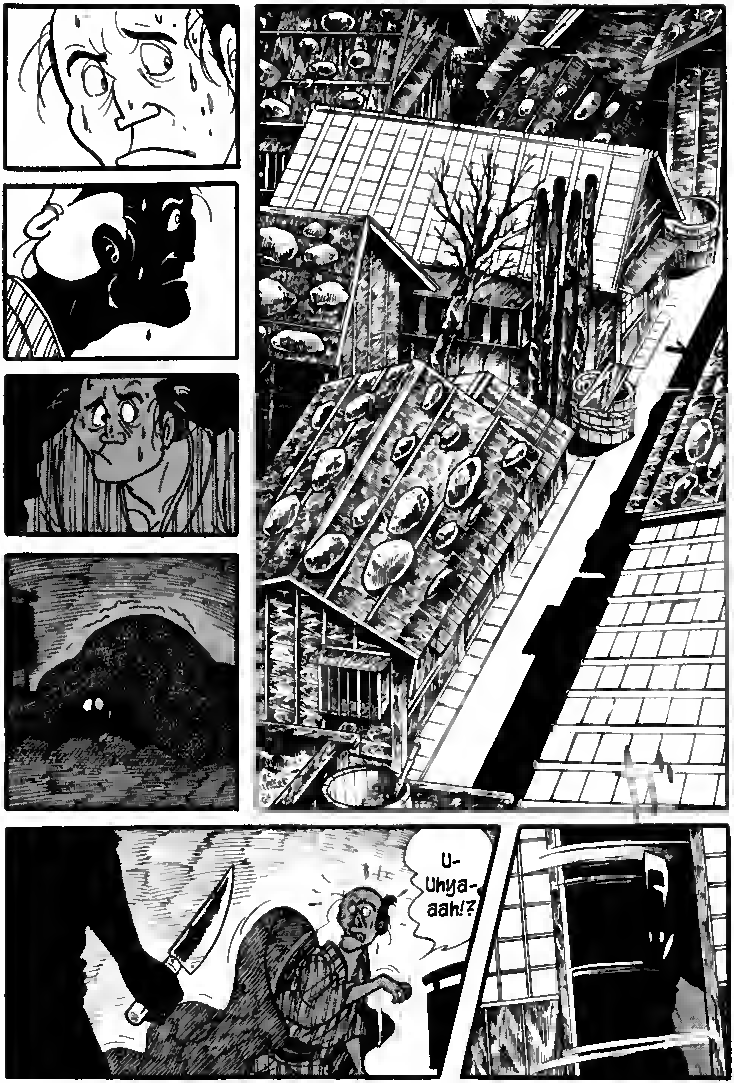
...Alright, let's take it inside!
..Huh?

Boss,
We found... the kid's sister.
W-What? What's everyone .. doing here?
S-So that victim... had another child!?
W-What?
.....
No, Sabu.
...We met on the road... and she cried at us to give her brother back.
Huh!?
That victim was not the father of these children!
...Well, from what we managed to gather after a lot of trouble...
Then... she said that wasn't her father...

Her father, Yakichi, abandoned Yataro somewhere... to threaten money from whoever picked him up so he could feed himself...!
Their mother died soon after giving birth to Yataro ... about a year ago.
Ya-taro!
Take!
...He'd cry crocodile tears and garner their sympathy with half-truths...
...In other words, he was using the baby for extortions and sponging. If whoever picked him up looked weak, he'd threaten them by saying "What are you doing with my son!?", and if they looked strong...

...But why was this the only time that Yakichi killed a man...!?
...No, Yakichi may not have even caused his death
It seems that Yakichi was a petty bastard who could barely even use his own baby for extortion... I can hardly beleve he'd go that far!

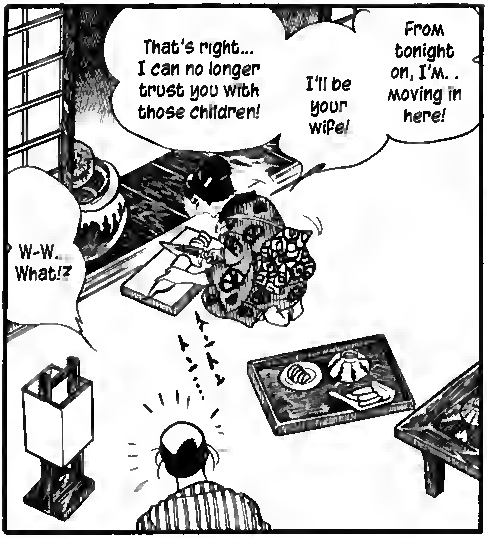
...The man was being followed..
So he hid that map in the baby's clothes ..
And just then, Yakichi tapped his shoulder, and he turned around..
and then a dagger flew out of nowhere and pierced his throat!
...How does that sound?
...what was in the grave?
Sabu.
Three money boxes..
Ahh!
Which means... Wait, the real perpetrator...
...must have thought Yakichi had made off with the map ... and then chased after Yakichi!!
H-Hey, Where's your father...!?
Yakichi's in danger!
Where is your house!?
.....!?

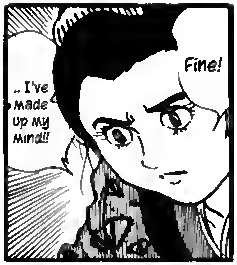

U-
Uhya-
aah!?

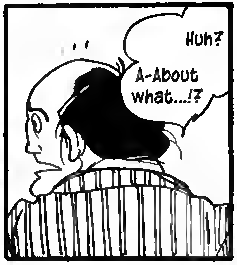
What's the matter with you, Yakichi!?
What are you doing with the lights off?
O...Oh, it's just you, neighbor Kayo...!!
.....
Kill you...? Did you do something wrong...!?
H-He's.. trying to kill me!
..S-somebody's .. been following me..
A-And because of that .. s-somebody died...!!
B-But I'm sure .. that someone threw a dagger at me from behind. .!
In that case.. Nothing to be afraid of, is there!?
I haven't... done anything!!
H-How could I!?

..Hey, more importantly, where's Take and Yah?
N..No, it's nothing.. It's nothing!
Huh?
They haven't come all day...
Weren't they with you?
Huh ...?
You idiot!!
That's strange.. I could've sworn they were with you until..
Oh well, they'll be home soon enough..
Waheeeeh!
EEEE EEE!!
How can you call yourself a father of two!?
Worthless scum! Good-for-nothing!
Ow, ow, ow!

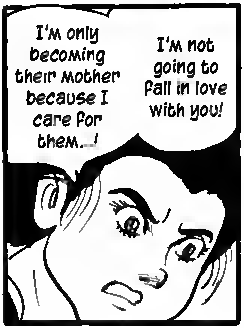
Y-You always cause trouble for people .. And that even got your wife killed... Are you going to get your children killed, too!?
Why can't you pull yourself together?
Y-You... You have such adorable children... So why can't you ..
No.
You may as well have killed your wife yourself!!
I-I haven't killed a soul ..
D... Don't say something so disturbing!
..Also,
...She worked until late at night to feed you and her child...
And she ruined her own body, which made her recovery after childbirth go wrong ..!!
How you're using Take and Yah ..!!
I know exactly what you're doing!
.....
.....
.....

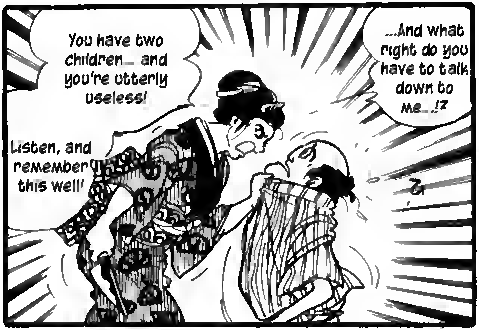

That's right... I can no longer trust you with those children!
I'll be your wife!
From tonight on, I'M.. moving in here!
W-W.. What!?


Fine!
..I've made up my mind!!


Huh?
A-About what...!?

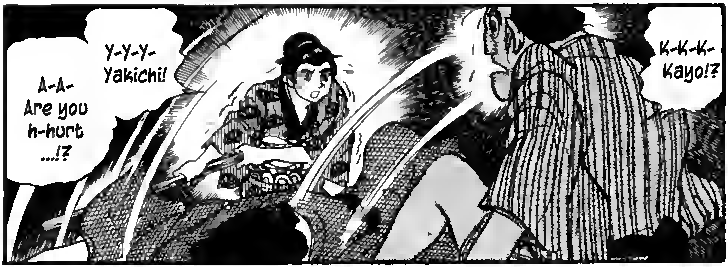
N-Now you're forcing yourself on me...!?
T-That's preposterous! I could never let you do that!
Y-You're already divorced!


I'M only becoming their Mother because I care for them...!
I'M not going to fall in love with you!


You have two children... and you're utterly useless!
Listen, and remember this well!
...And what right do you have to talk down to me...!?

I'm gonna work you to the bone!!
Because I'm not going to be like your previous wife that listened to everything you said!
So... Don't start acting like I've fallen for a pathetic person like yourself...
D-Damn it...
and bring in my things!
I'm gonna find the children
What the hell, here already?
Don't tell me you don't know what I'm talking about. I saw you in the temple grounds... making a sign to him.
Ee... eeee...
...Why don't you bring out the map you took off that bastard?

And if you're one of his pals...!!
Well?
Don't you think he deserved it?
...That asshole.. decided to hoard the three money boxes we stole three years ago and turn tail.
Eeek Y-Y-You're the one who threw the dagger, aren't you...!?
Heh . I sure am
Shut up! Just show me the map that shows where the money boxes are hidden!
I-I don't know... what you're...!!
Aieeeee!


A-A-
Are you
h-hurt
...!?
Y-Y-Y-
Yakichi!
K-K-K-
Kayo!?

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 78
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
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SYSTEMATICCHAOS
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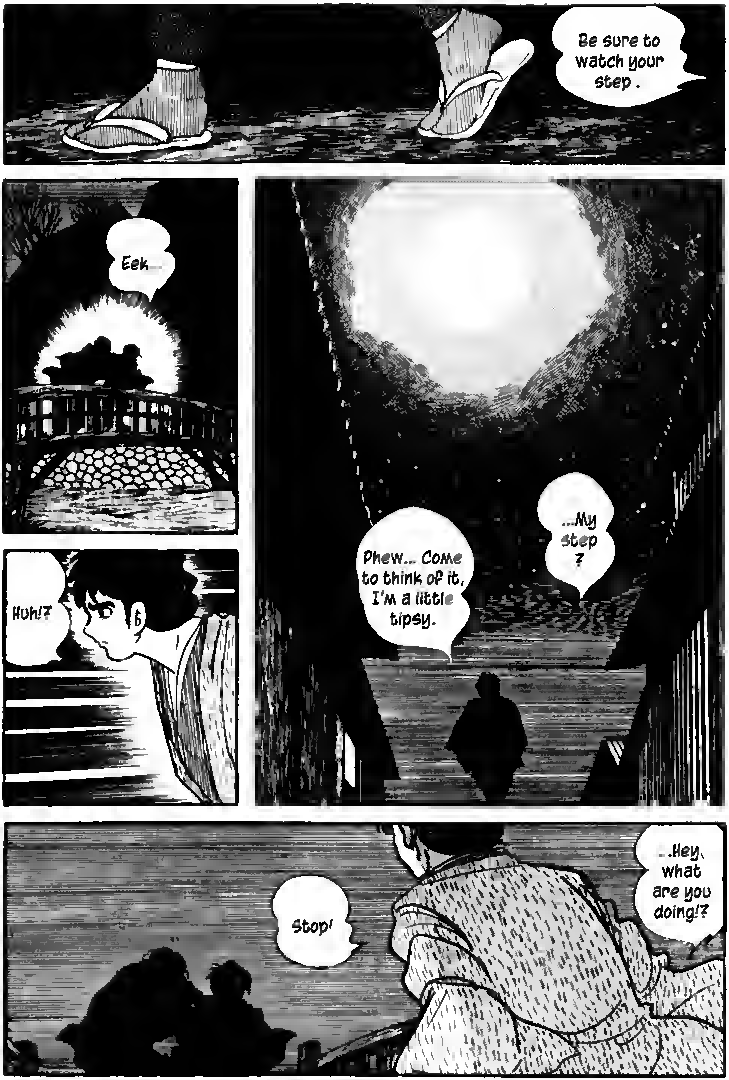
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

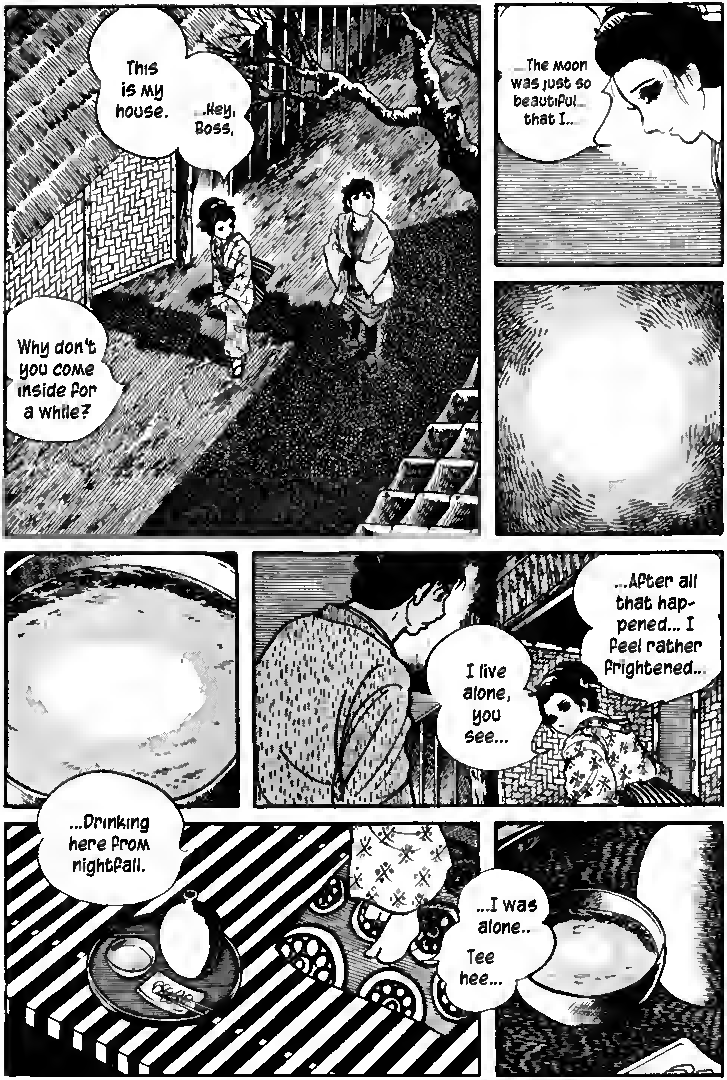
Chapter 79: Open Veranda on a Misty Night

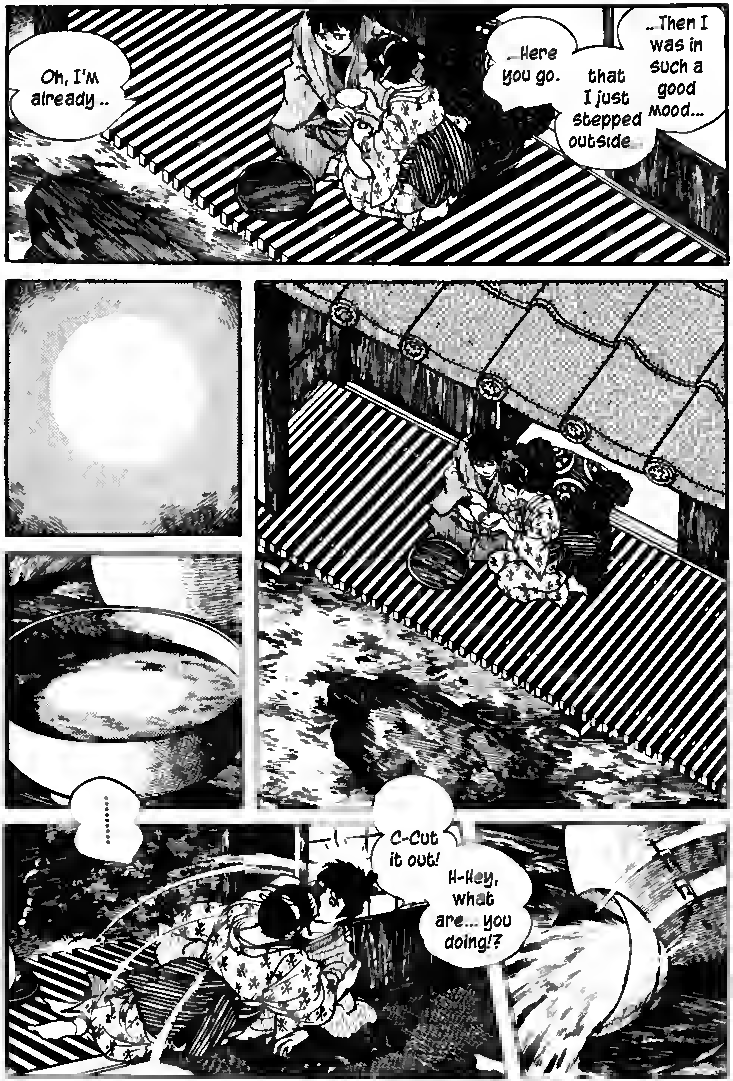
...Boss, take this lantern...
No, no, it's so bright out...
I've over-stayed my welcome... Thank you so much for the food.
Well...
Sure can tell it's spring...
Now that you think of it... the full moon really is bright.


Be sure to watch your step.
Eek...
Phew... Come to think of it, I'm a little tipsy.
...My step?
Huh!?
Stop!
...Hey, what are you doing!?

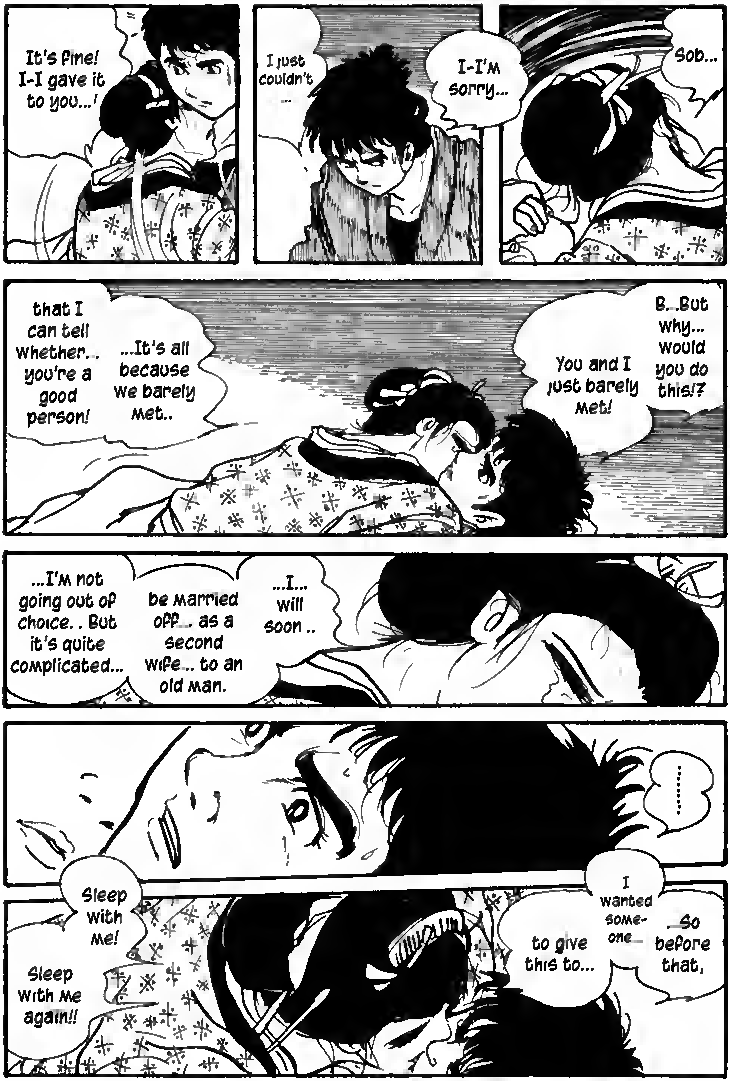
S-Shut up! You stay out of this!
I-If you dare interfere, I'll..
.....
Y-You son of a...

...Heh, t-take that!
...What was that all about?
I-I am so sorry.
Thank you so much.
...I don't even know what happened... He just assaulted me out of nowhere...
A thief?
Perhaps I should've brought him in?
A young girl like you... strolling alone out on a night like this!!
...But you're at fault, too.

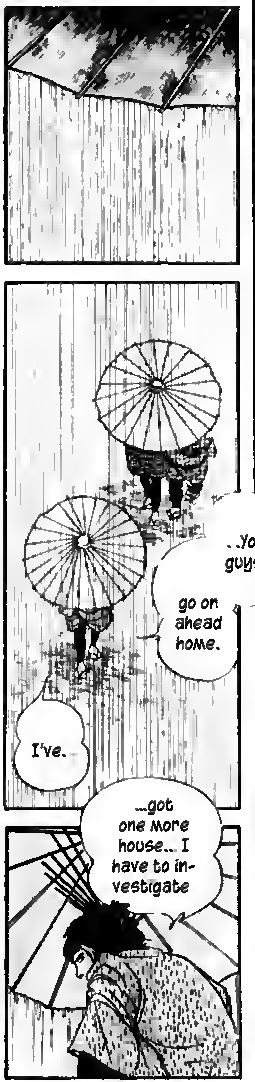

This is my house.
...Hey, Boss,
Why don't you come inside for a while?
...The moon was just so beautiful... that I...
I live alone, you see...
...After all that happened... I feel rather frightened...
...Drinking here from nightfall.
...I was alone..
Tee hee...

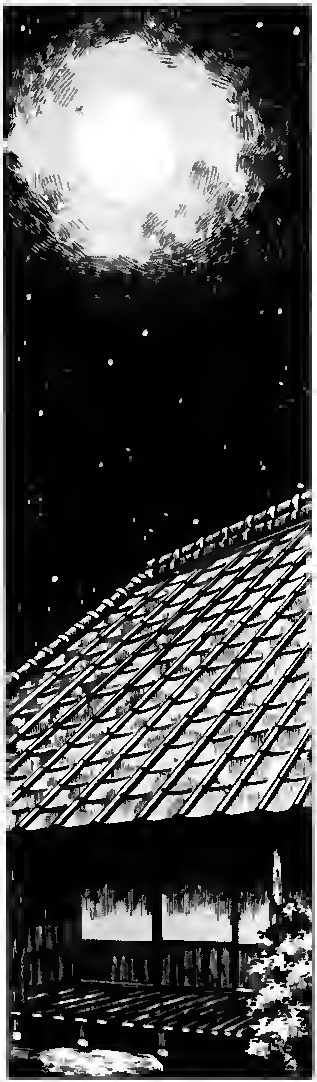

Oh, I'm already..
...Here you go.
that I just stepped outside
...Then I was in such a good mood...
.....
C-Cut it out!
H-Hey, what are... you doing!?

Sob...
y-your first time!?
..Was that

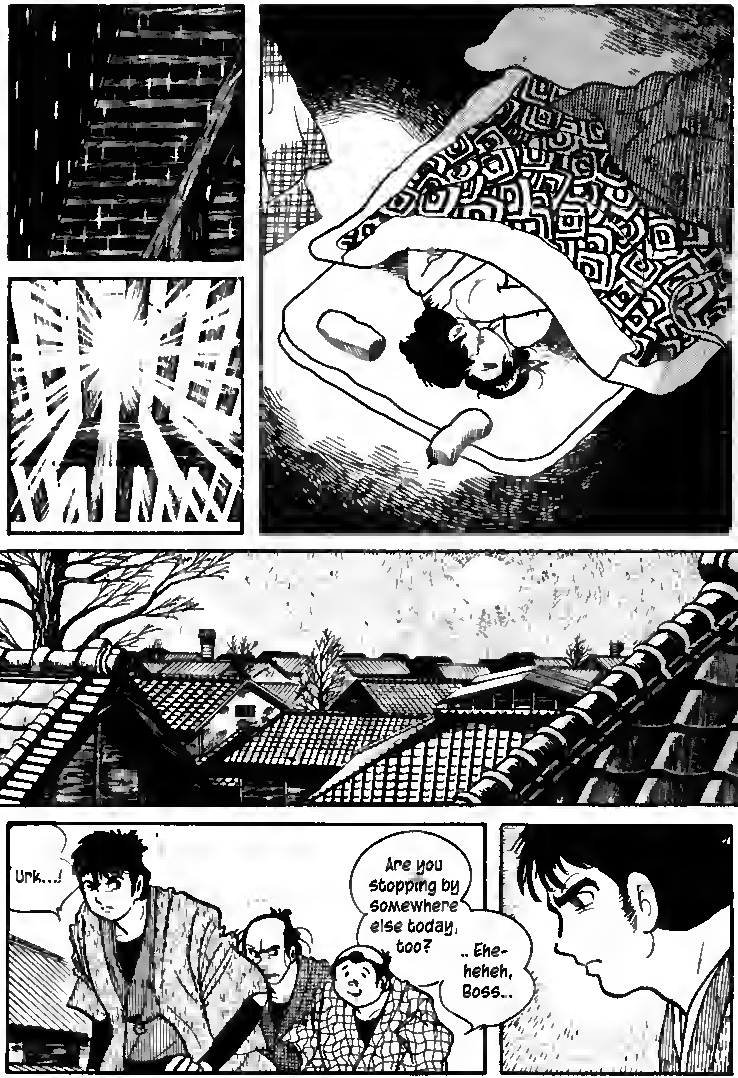

It's fine! I-I gave it to you...!
I just couldn't ...
I-I'm sorry...
Sob...
that I can tell whether... you're a good person!
...It's all because we barely met..
You and I just barely met!
B...But why... would you do this!?
...I'm not going out of choice.. But it's quite complicated...
be married off... as a second wife... to an old man.
...I... will soon ..
Sleep with me!
Sleep with me again!!
to give this to...
I wanted some-one—
So before that,

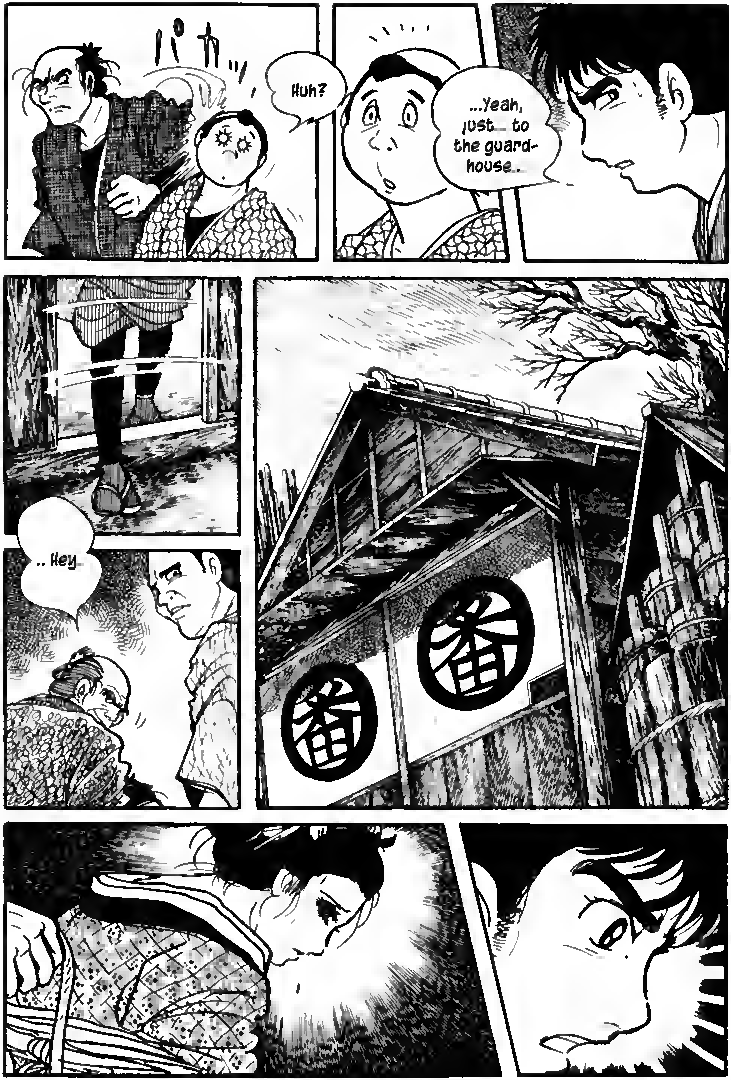
Taki...
My name is...
So that's why... you live alone in this mansion...!
...My mother and father...
...passed away last summer...
...They were out boating in the Okawa...
and their boat capsized... and they drowned
.....
D..Don't leave Me... P-Please... hold Me Forever!!


..You guys,
go on ahead home.
I've..
...got one more house.. I have to investigate



...Hey, Bro,
Don't you think that our boss is acting strange lately?
...He really wants to be alone now..
Tch,
For someone as slow as you.. You're reading into this, aren't you!?


Urk...!
Are you stopping by somewhere else today, too?
..Ehe-heheh, Boss..


Huh?
...Yeah, just to the guard-house..
..Hey

Heh, you see, she's the murderer of the manager of Hanabusaya!
H... Hanabuseya ...!?
.....
.....
So... they had a lover's quarrel... and she stabbed him last night
Yeah. Seems like she was getting physical with that old man, despite her own age.
Hmpf, she claims that some strenge man thet seemed like a thief snuck in... and killed the old man when he raised a ruckus, but...
Heh, talk is cheap.
.....

there she was, holding the bloody dagger!
And there, by the old man collapsed on the veranda
...A neighbor came running over after hearing the old man's screams
Tch, you're quite a stubborn bitch, considering your face!
After you stabbed him... right?
I-I was just... in a panic to pull out...
the dagger that had killed him!
I-I'm not lying!

Huh?
B-But..?
She . may be actually telling the truth!
...Let's investigate it again!
...I said investigate!!
.....
Find any leads?
..How's the case going .?

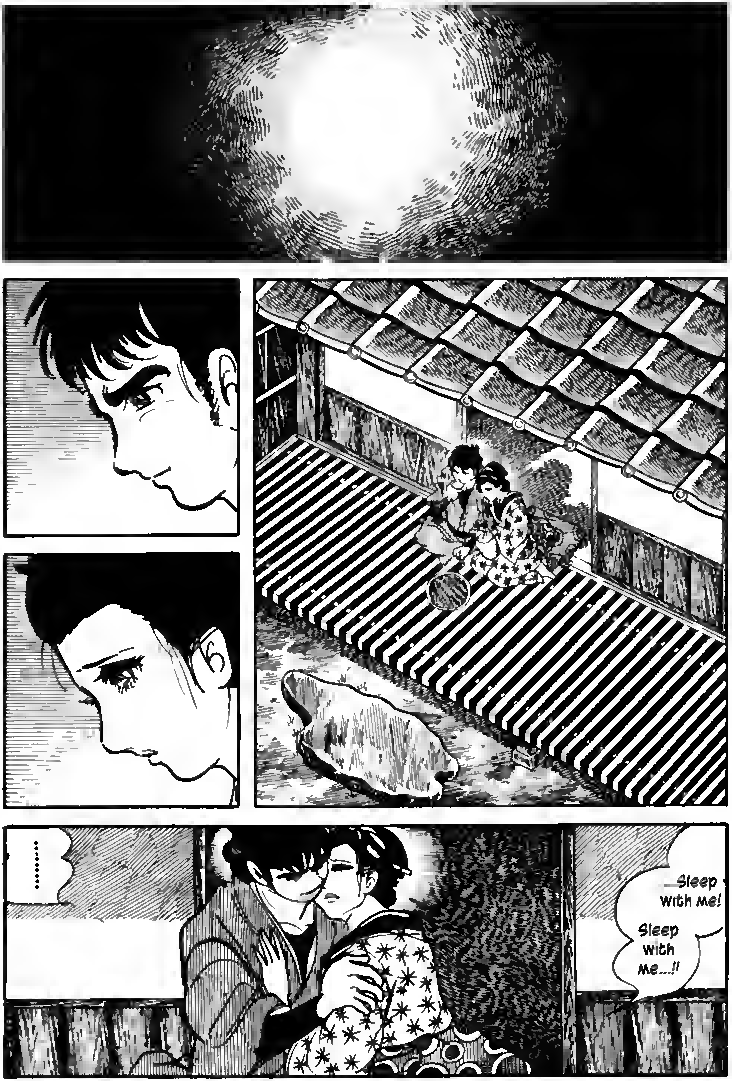
And they say that she didn't want to be married to the old man...
I hear that she's been seeing a younger man lately
...You suppose that girl killed him after all?
But that aside... If there were a younger man, she might want to kill him...
I'd find it rather strange that she would gladly accept the marriage offer...
...Of course, at that age...
.....

Waaaugh...!!
KCh!
Ah, boss! That thief!
...He has Hanabusaya's... seal case and wallet!!
Augh!
S-Sabu!?
Why... are you in such a panic...!?

Dam-
mit!

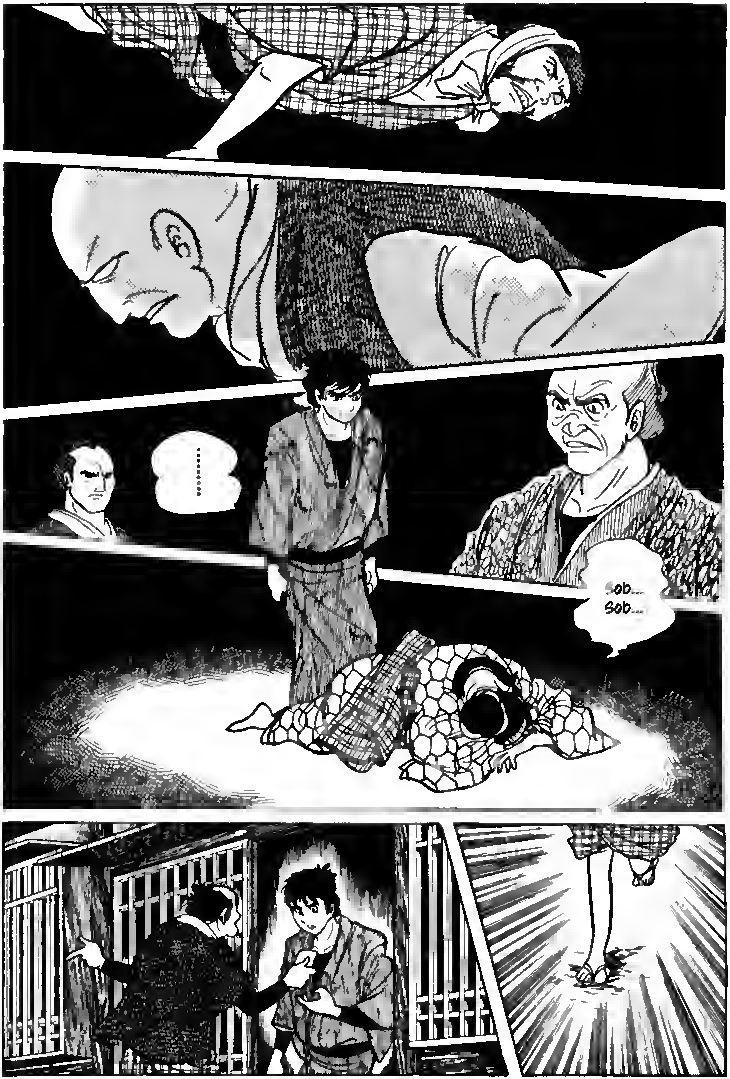
H-Hey, am I right!?
But he got away from us..!
We followed him and caught him once... and searched his belongings..
..He seemed suspicious... so we called to him and he ran.
But... that old man made too... much...
I...I don't know this... Hanabusaya...
Uggh...
Urgh...
...S-So you... murdered Hanabusaya!!

!?
B...Boss, w-why... are you crying...!?


Sleep with me!
Sleep with me...!!

Just don't abandon me... Don't abandon me!!
I can stay like this forever!
..If you have a wife already... that's fine with me!
... Come on...
Drinking that much just isn't healthy!
.. Cut it out.

Uhh... hh...
...Are you trembling?
What's wrong!?
What!?
I...It's hard... k-keeping up a lie... to someone who wields a truncheon!
B-But just then...
I remembered you.... and took the dagger!
...That man... stabbed him and ran...
But... he was still alive...!
.....!!
I stabbed him!!
...I removed the dagger and stabbed him again!


……
Sob...
Sob...

...Dear...?
COME RIGHT AWAY... TAKI
...I...I've got urgent business to attend to
...I'll be back!
...and I'm pregnant!
...Dear, this afternoon...I went to the doctor...

Toki...!?
...Toki?

Dearest Sabu,
I am leaving Eda, together with that man... Remember the night we first met? There was a man who was beating me?

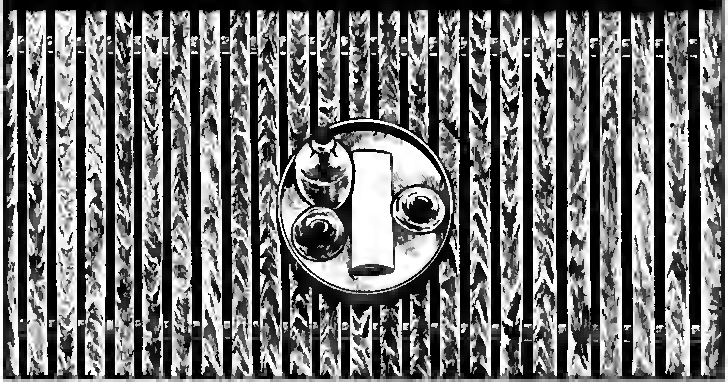
The truth is... That man worked at my store while my mother and father were still alive. I didn't like him or hate him, but my mother and father wanted us to be together.

But after their tragedy, the store ran down... and Hanabusaya took me in. That was why he was so mad that night.

I am sorry, Sabu. I have caused you so much trouble... I only knew you for a short time, but I was truly happy that I met you. My rendezvous with you were truly enjoyable. The thought that I will never see you again is worse to me than death...

For I loved you.
This is all I wanted to say to you...
Goodbye. I hope you will be happy...

From TAKI



March 1972. "Open Veranda on a Misty Night" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 79
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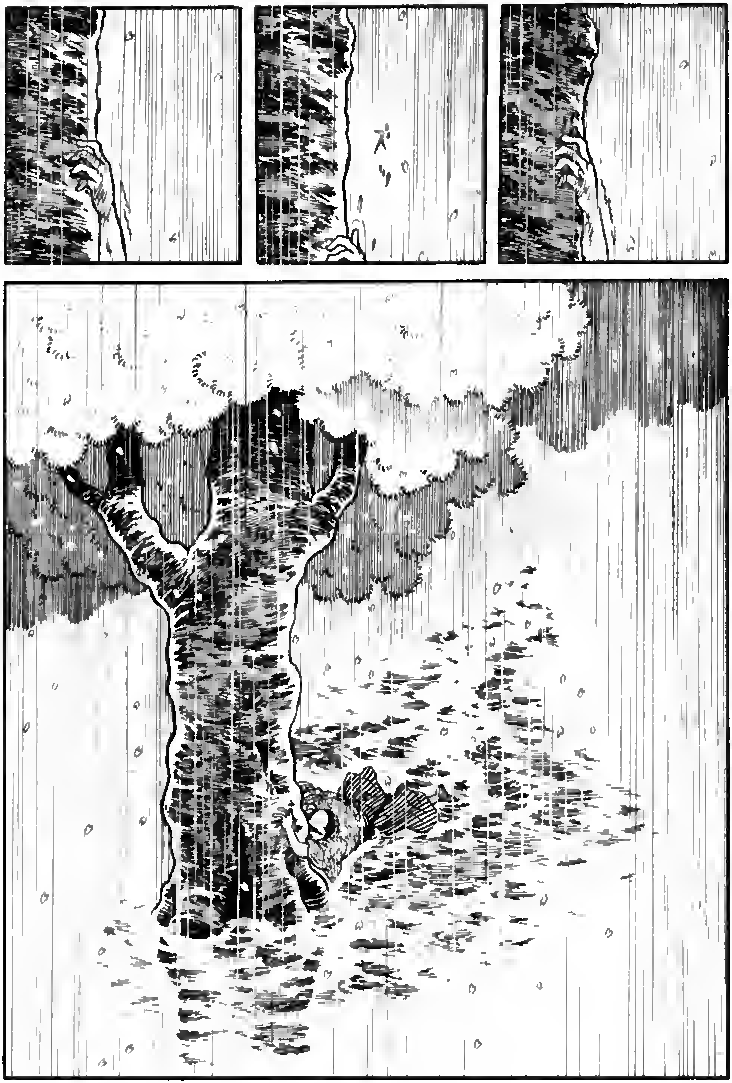
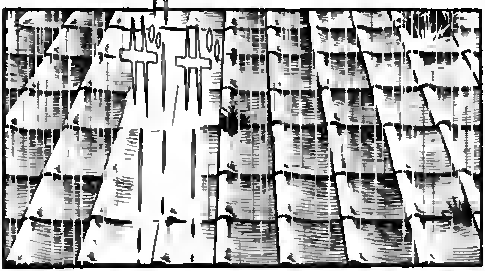
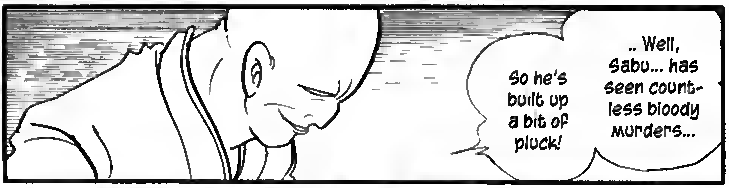
Chapter 80: Chronicles of the Scattered Cherry Blossoms



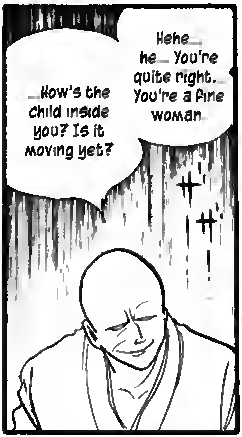


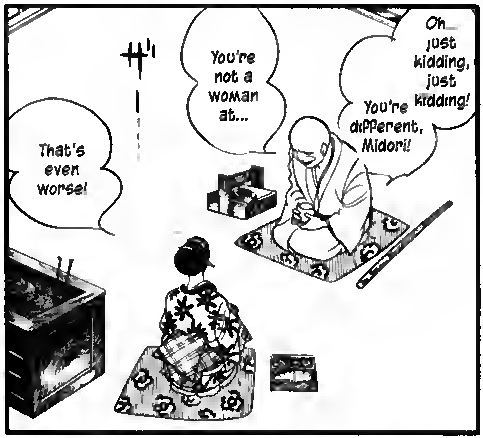
This'll ruin the cherry blossoms.
...I hate this damn rain...!
...For a blind man that is forced to live in a world of sound alone .
...You said it. Rain is utterly awful
Hey, Ichi,
This unspeakable sound that continues on end without pause... is truly intolerable!
Why don't you go get married soon?

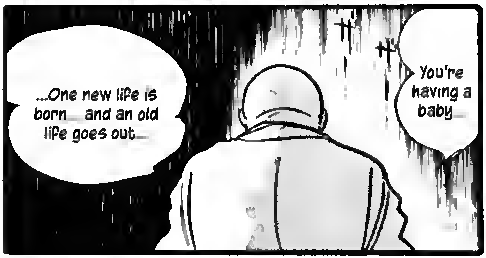
...I see, a wife.
Heh.. hehe he...
That must be because you're lonely!
Every time it rains.. you keep saying you don't want to be by yourself..
Well, I wonder about that.
It could turn out that I won't be able to tell! ..
whether the sound of the rain or my wife talking is truly intolerable!
And... At my age, you start to get a little selfish.
Hehe...
Oh, you're still saying that...?
I feel like I couldn't stand having to live taking care of someone else...
On top of that, these mysteries called women are more dangerous the more you discover about them.. Hehehe...
My, how rude! I'm a woman myself!


.. Well, Sabu... has seen countless bloody murders...
So he's built up a bit of pluck!

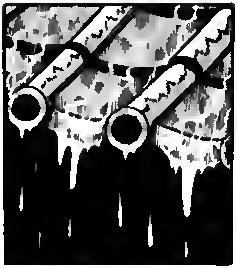
My!


Hehe... he... You're quite right. You're a fine woman.
...How's the child inside you? Is it moving yet?

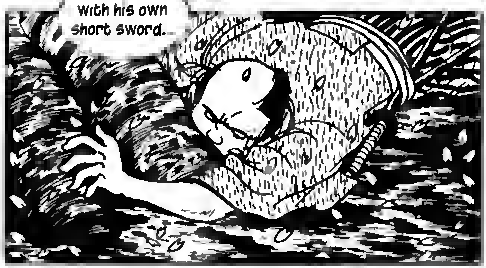

Oh... just kidding, just kidding!
You're not a woman at...
You're different, Midori!
That's even worse!

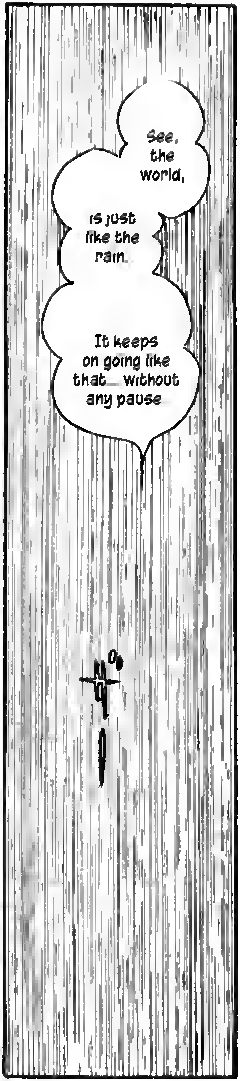

...One new life is born... and an old life goes out...
You're having a baby...

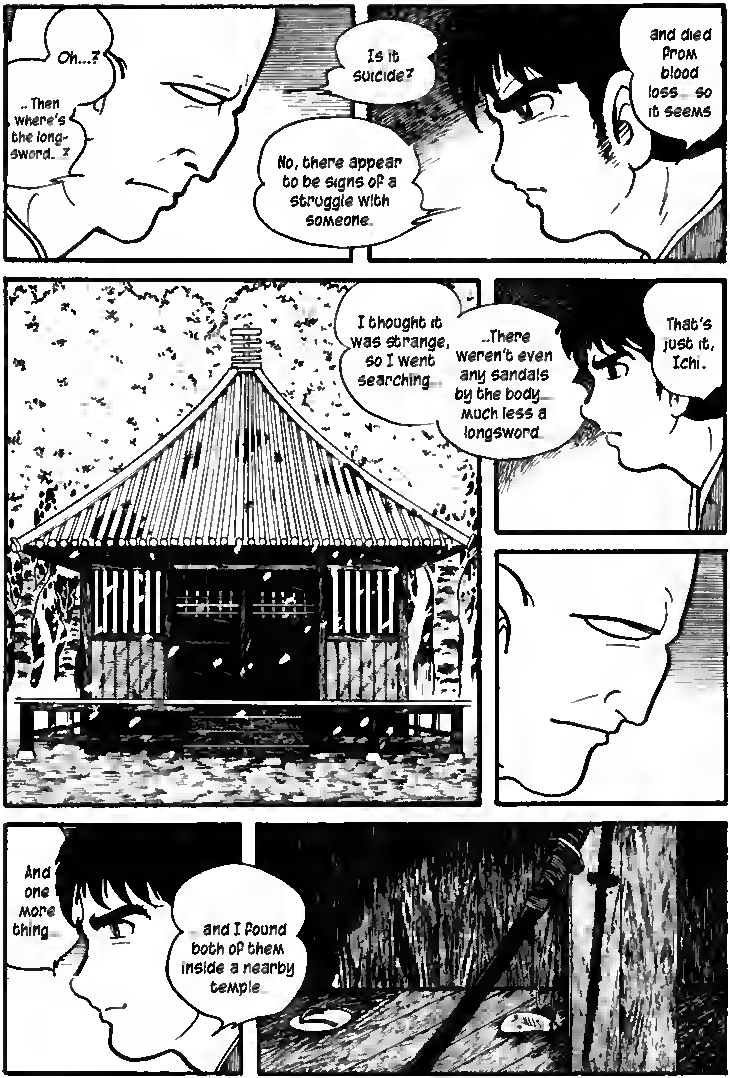
Hmm
I don't know

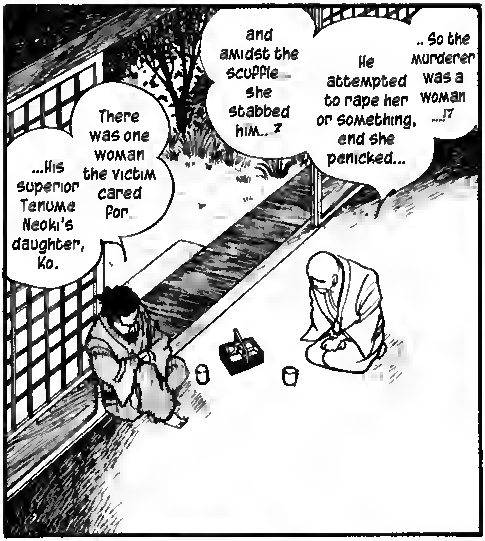


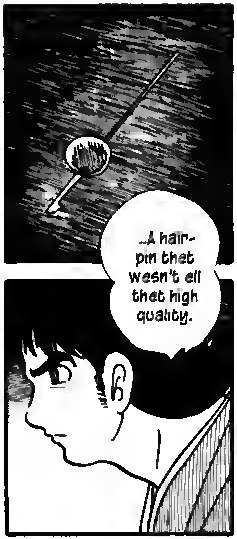
...The victim is Itakura Samanosuke...
Accountant of Nagaoka Fief.
He was stabbed in the stomach with his own short sword...




See, the world,
is just like the rain.
It keeps on going like that... without any pause

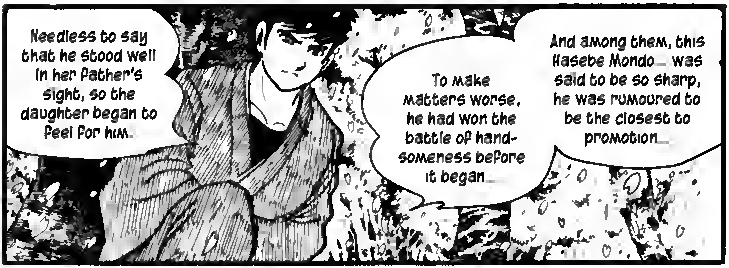

Oh...?
..Then where's the long-sword..?
Is it suicide?
No, there appear to be signs of a struggle with someone.
and died from blood loss... so it seems
I thought it was strange, so I went searching...
...There weren't even any sandals by the body... much less a longsword.
That's just it, Ichi.
And one more thing...
...and I found both of them inside a nearby temple...

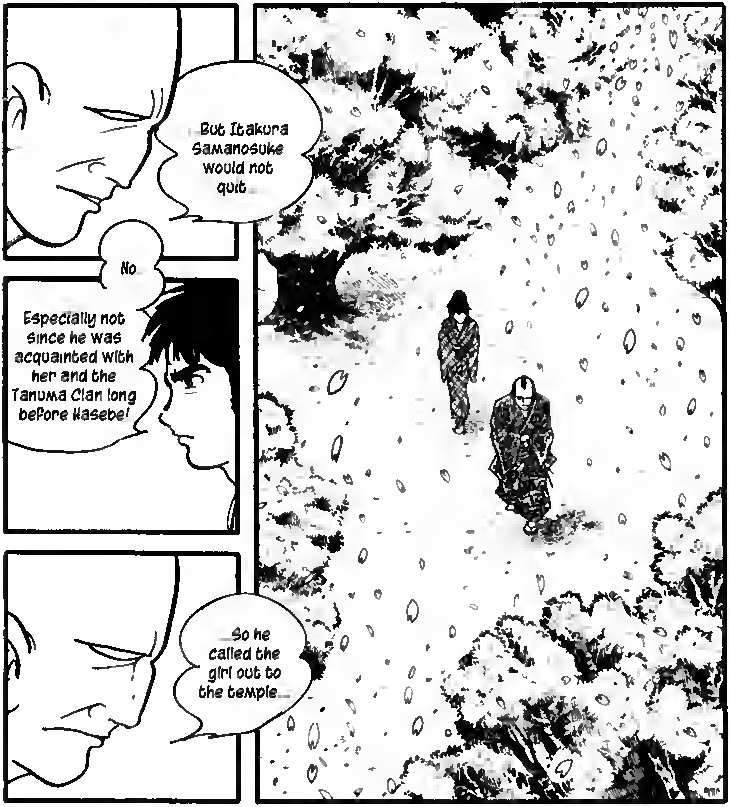

There was one woman the victim cared for...
...His superior Tenume Neoki's daughter, Ko.
and amidst the scuffle— she stabbed him...?
He attempted to rape her or something, and she panicked...
.. So the murderer was a woman ...!?


...A hairpin that wasn't all that high quality.

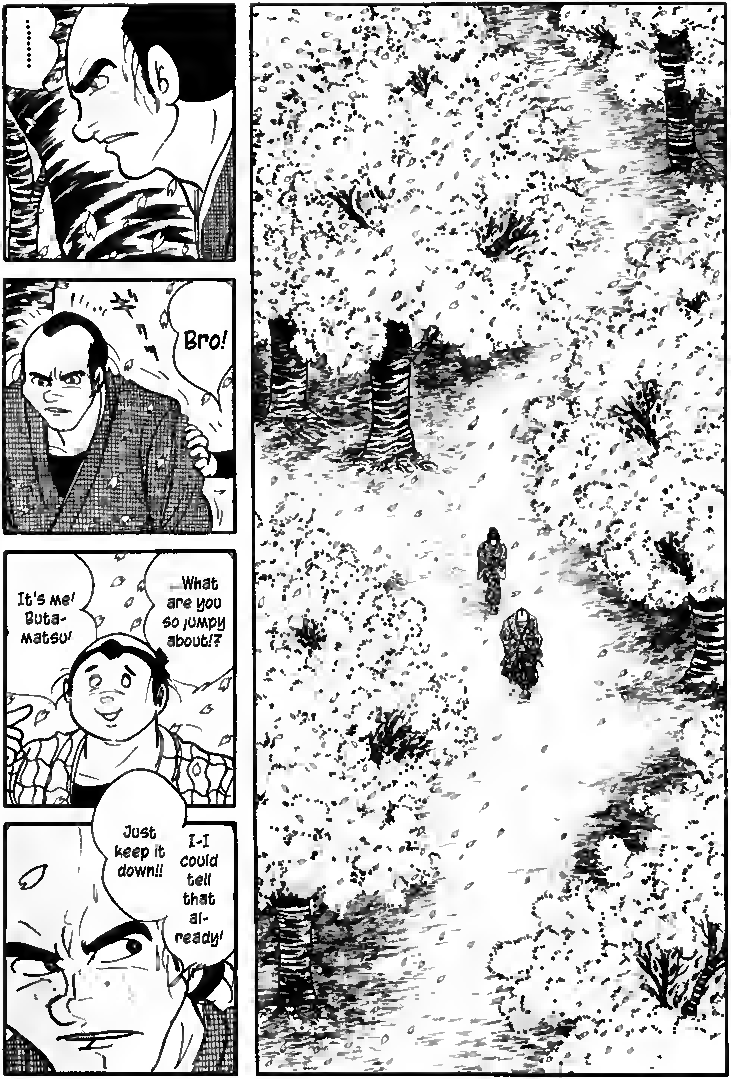
His colleague, Hasebe Mondo.
However.. There was another that Ko had lost her head to.

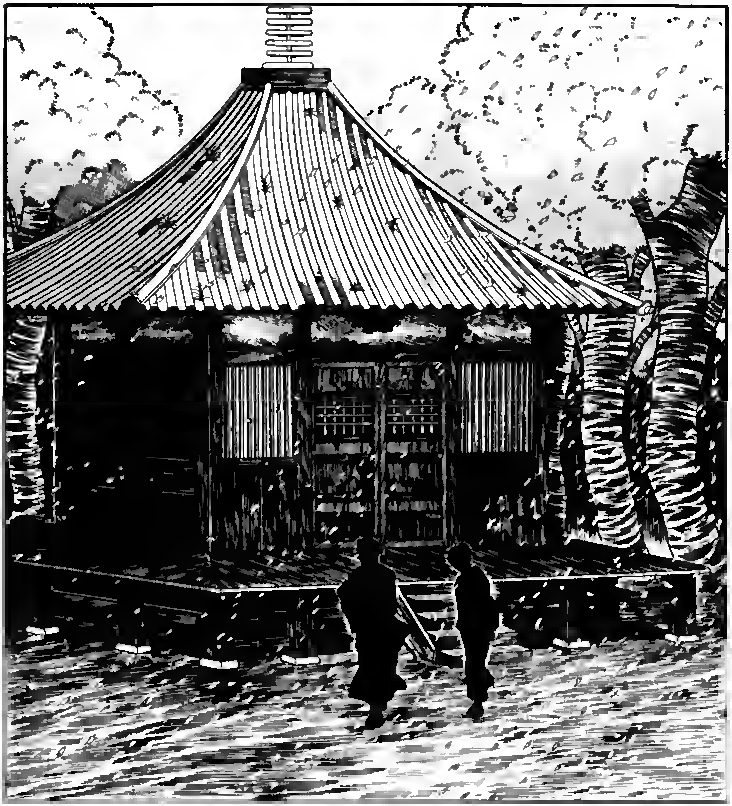
the first step to success in life is in the brush, not in the sword, even for samurai.
But in these times we live in,
was said to be done by the Magistrates in shadow in old days
.. The post of an accountant


Needless to say that he stood well in her father's sight, so the daughter began to feel for him.
To make matters worse, he had won the battle of handsomeness before it began.
And among them, this Hasebe Mondo... was said to be so sharp, he was rumoured to be the closest to promotion.


But Itakura Samanosuke would not quit.
No.
Especially not since he was acquainted with her and the Tanuma Clan long before Hasebe!
...So he called the girl out to the temple...

They were out watching the flowers together at that time!
Well... Looks like that's not it either!
You don't think... that Hasebe's trying to cover for the girl?
Huh?
...If not,
then Hasebe killed Itakura...!
Well, I think so too...
Either way, I have Butamatsu and Gimpei following them both.
Guessing by the situation, it would make sense if the girl did it.
Well, I wouldn't know about that.


……
Bro!
It's me! Buta-matsu!
What are you so jumpy about!?
Just keep it down!!
I-I could tell that al-ready!

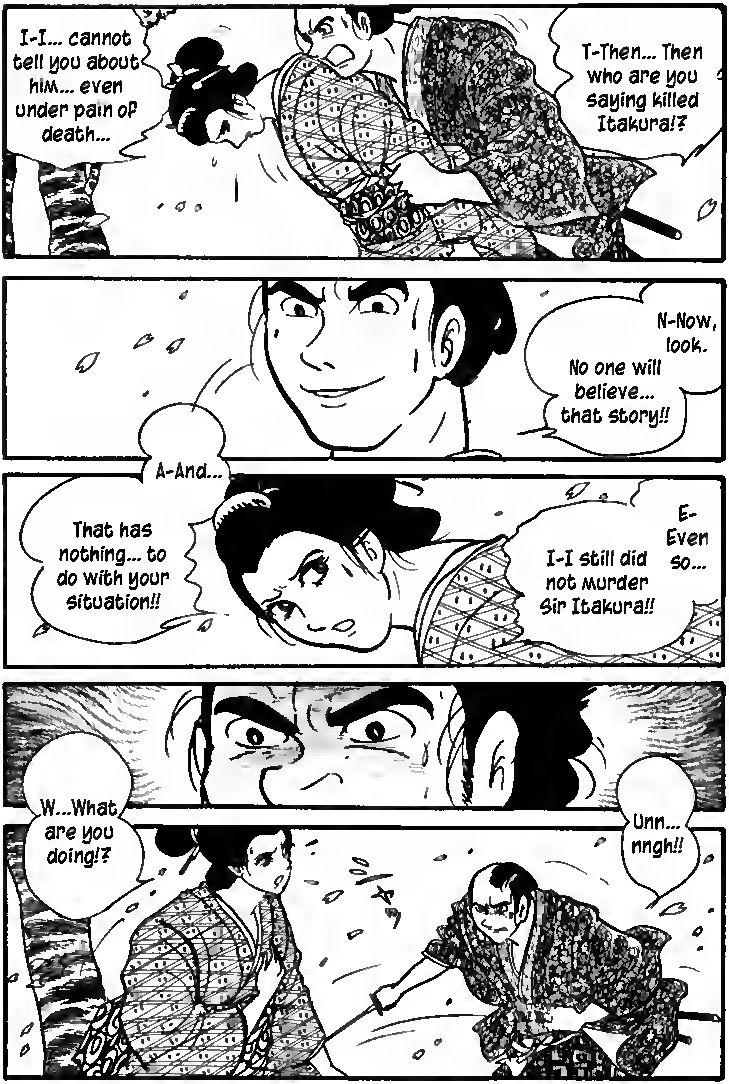


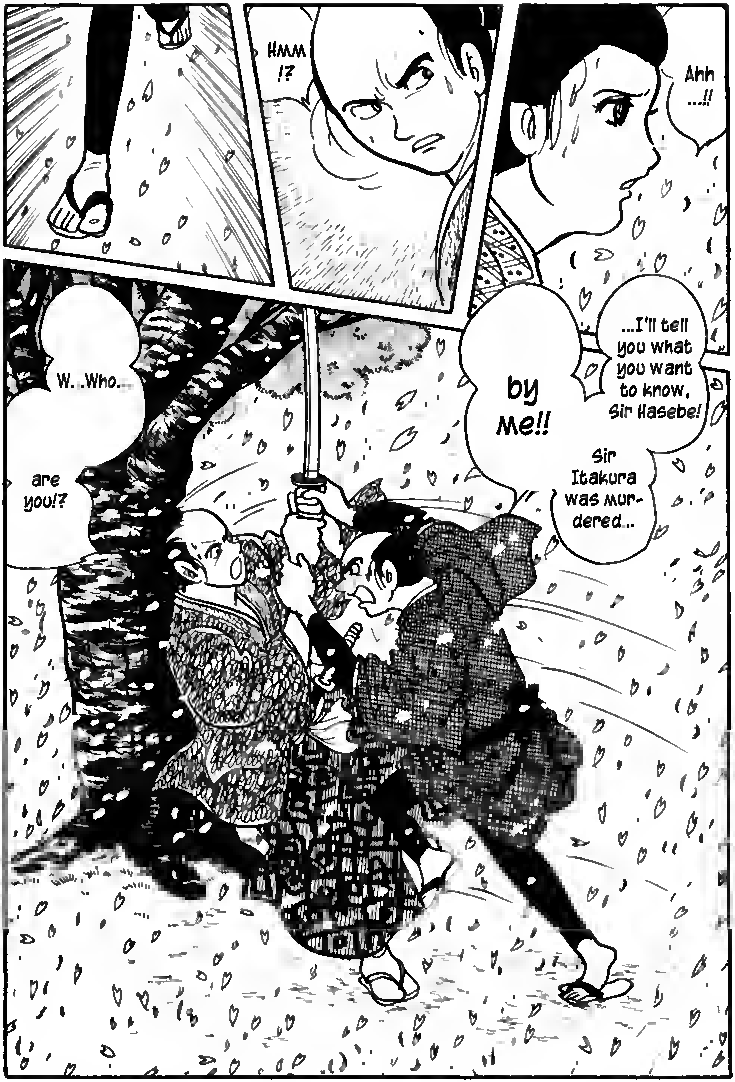
W-Why are you taking me here...!?
...S-Sir Hasebe...
...Don't you know, Lady Koiz
I-I am sorry... that you had to cover for me ..
...I was not with you... when it happened ..!
H-He called me here!
really did come here with Ibakura!
Which means that you...
...Do you always come nonchalantly whenever a man calls you?

And so I...
said he wanted to talk to me regarding my personal affairs...
N-No... Sir Itakura...
...IF I may say so myself... I have a future!
...I would like to speak frankly with you, Lady Ko
Hmpf... And you fell for that fabrication!?
Y...You... You are a...
.....
Did you kill Itakura!?
I do not want to be led astray by being wrapped up in trivial affairs!
.....

"And I have proof of it!!"
"He tampers with the account books and lines his own pockets!
"I know... about Hasebe's wickedness!
...S-Sir Itakura.. told me this!
What!?
W-
N... No!
T-That's why I ran away without listening to him...!!
I...I thought that Sir Itakura .. was fabricating it to change my mind...
t-that that was true!?
S-So I suppose ...

I-I will have my father confirm .. whether or not it is nonsense. In that case .
T-That's just.. nonsense!!
Huh!?
W-Wait, Wait! Lady Ko!
What will become of you!?
If you do that...
You have murdered Itakura! I-If you testify that you were not with me...
I-It was not me... who murdered Sir Itakura!
...I do not mind if I testify that!
L-Let me go!

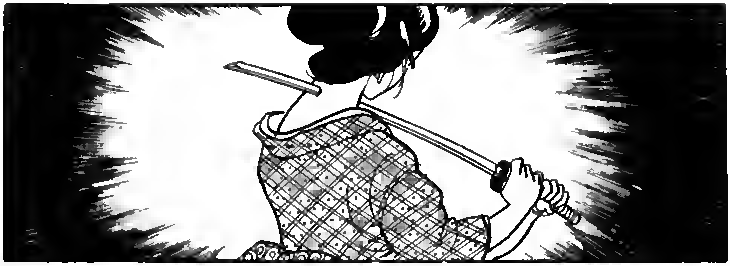

I-I... cannot tell you about him... even under pain of death...
T-Then... Then who are you saying killed Itakura!?
N-Now, look.
No one will believe... that story!!
A-And...
That has nothing... to do with your situation!!
E-Even so...
I-I still did not murder Sir Itakura!!
W...What are you doing!?
Unn... nngh!!

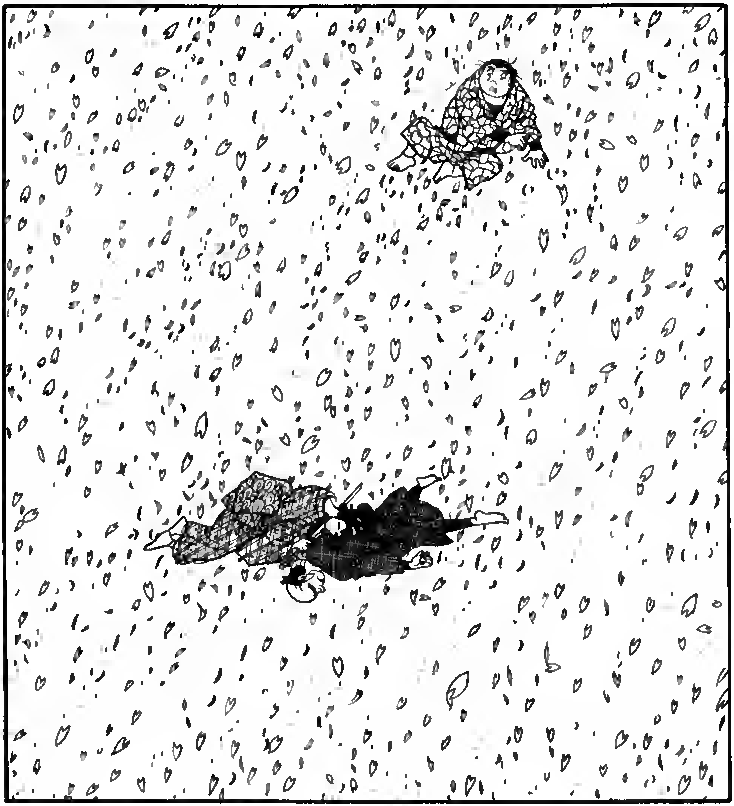

Ahh ...!!
Hmm !?
...I'll tell you what you want to know, Sir Hasebe!
Sir Itakura was murdered...
by me!!
W...Who... are you!?

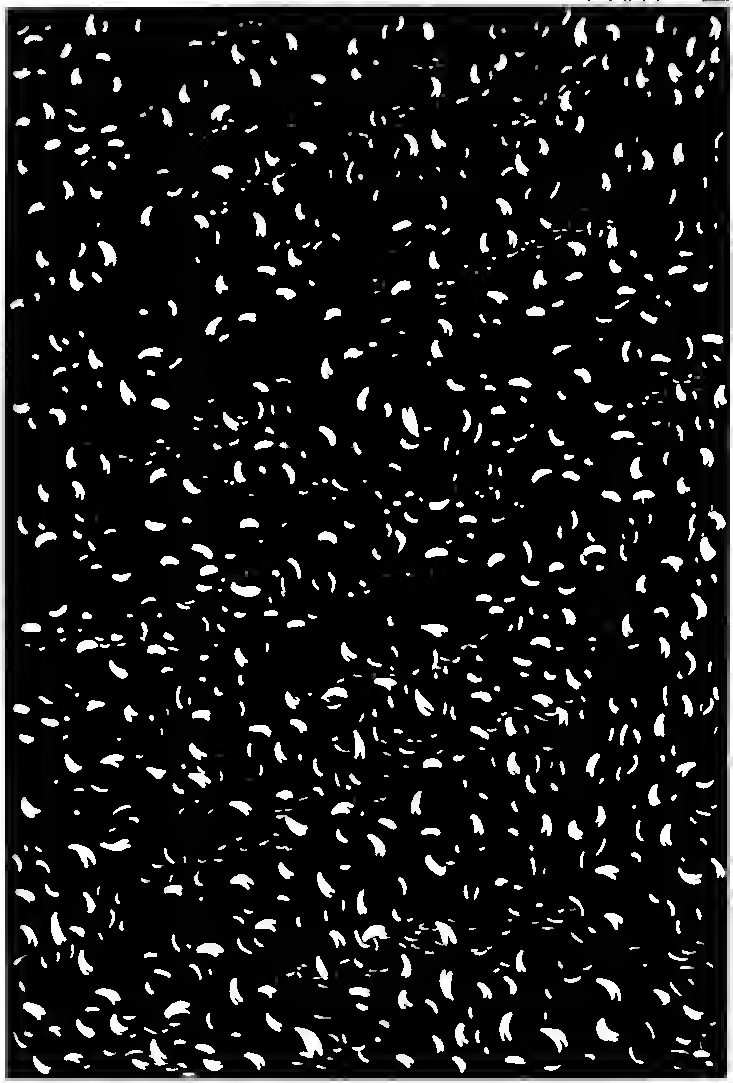
Huh...!?
...Just like I was back then.
J-Just a passerby
to assault that lady there, and amidst our struggle...
a drunken samurai who was trying...
...I tried to stop...
He drew his sword...

Eek!!
..And before I knew it, he..
..was dead!!
I-I May have made a mistake...
But I have killed a samurai who was innocent, unlike you..!
G..G-G-Bro!?
Buta-Matsu
.....
I wanted to spill out everything to him.
Don't say anything to the Boss.

But I thought of the trouble I would cause the Boss and Sir Tanabe...
A... And I couldn't!
ii0rO-B
Ahh...







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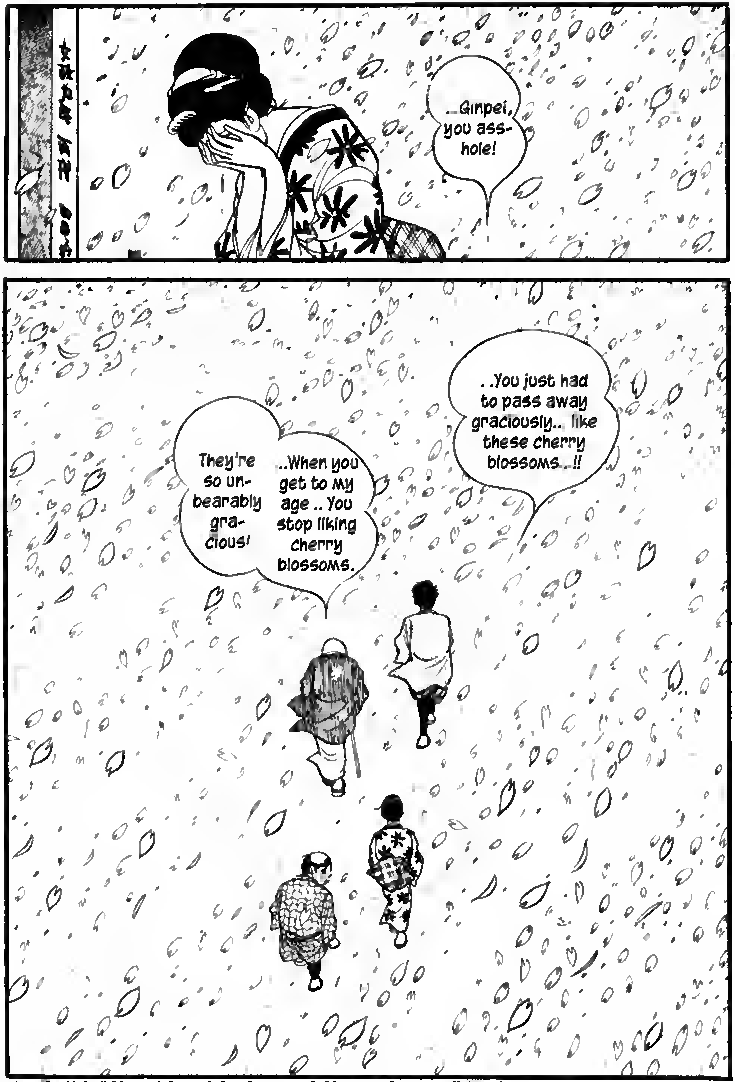
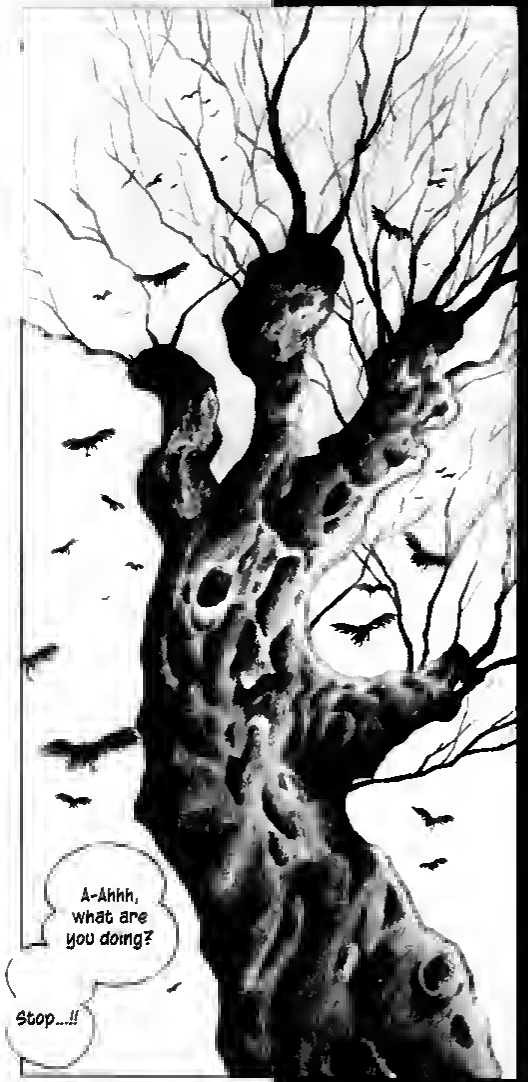

...Ginpei, you ass-hole!
..You just had to pass away graciously.. like these cherry blossoms..!!
..When you get to My age .. You stop liking cherry blossoms.
They're so un-bearably gra-cious!

April 1972: "Chronicles of the Scattered Cherry Blossoms" (FIN)

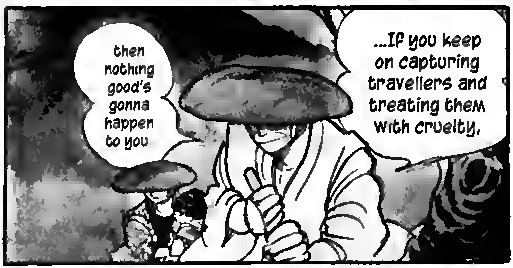
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 80
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 81: Pursuit

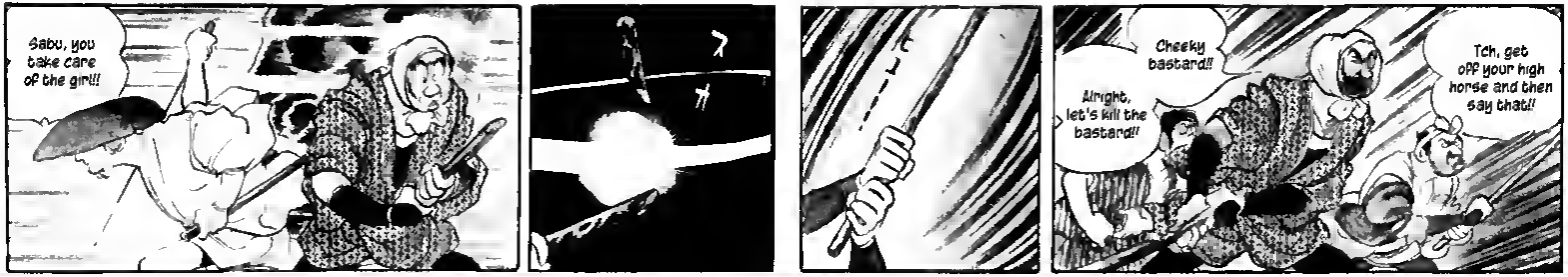

A-Ahhh, what are you doing?
Stop...!!

Yeah, don't be so stubborn...
Now, now, pretty lady...
Hehe he..
Let me go!!
Hehe he..
Agh!
W-W-Who did that!?
Hehe he...
Come on, join us here.
L-Let me go...
AIEE-EEEEE!!

We are simple travellers... but we cannot bear to witness you preying on the weak.
A... Ahhh ..
W-Who the hell are you!?


...If you keep on capturing travellers and treating them with cruelty,
then nothing good's gonna happen to you

So you're just a kid and a masseur!!
Kch!!


Sabu, you take care of the girl!!
Alright, let's kill the bastard!!
Cheeky bastard!!
Tch, get off your high horse and then say that!!

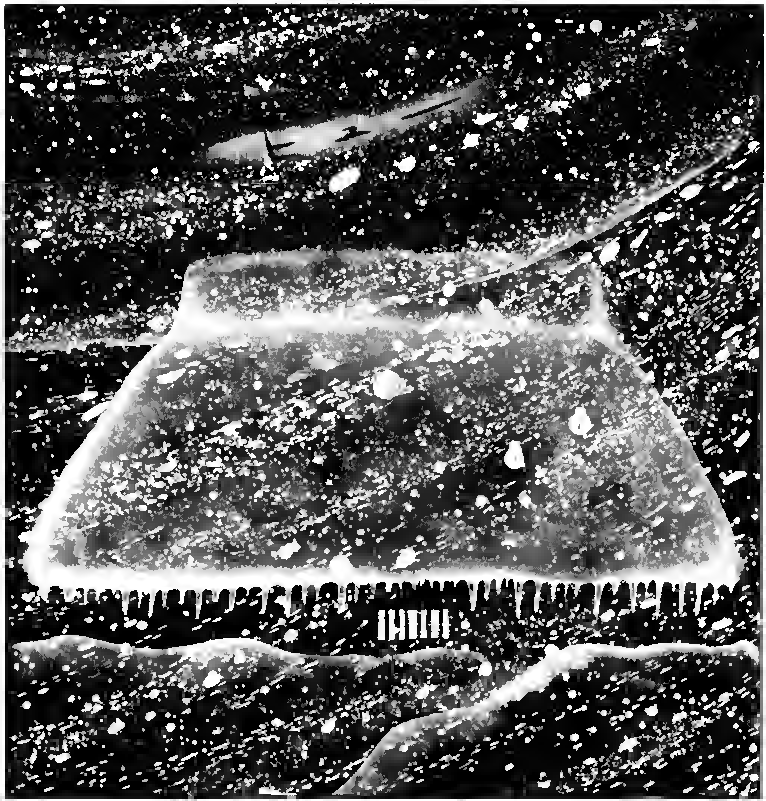
Aieeee!!
Gya aaa aaa aah!!
I-I-I-It hurts! It hurts!!
Waaaa augh!
.. Now, come along, young lady...

...I truly...

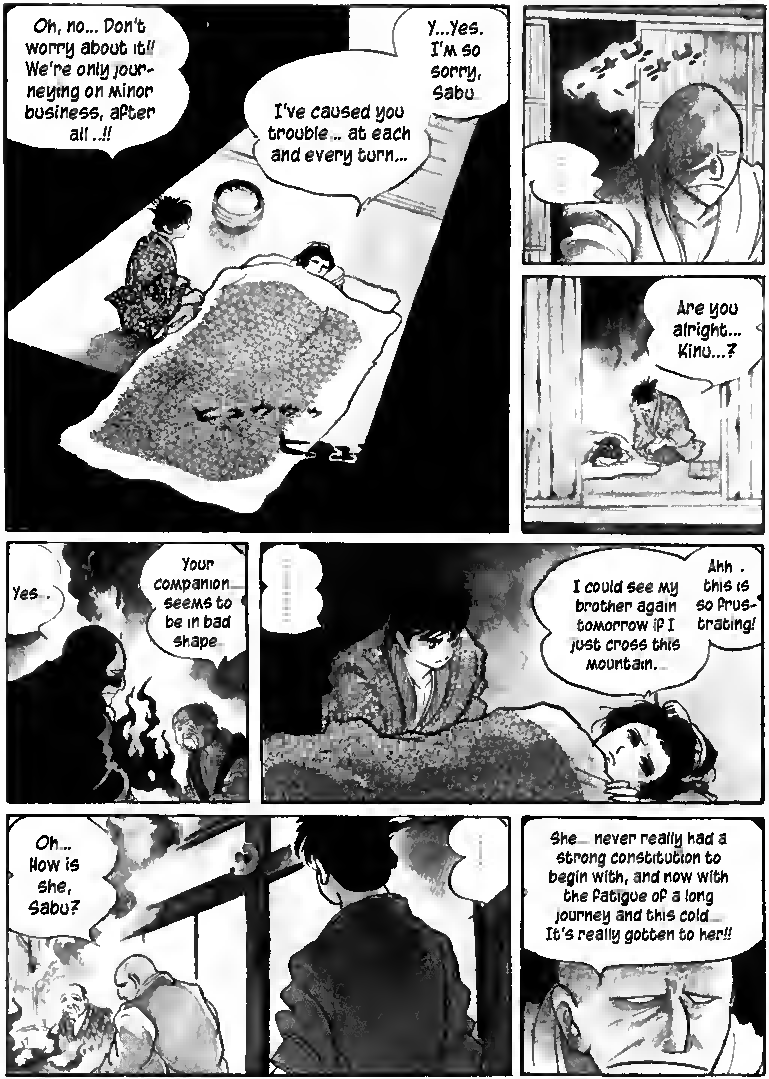
But whatever the case, it's just dangerous for a woman to travel alone
In travelling, companionship, in life, kindness...
Ehehe, it's nothing
Feel reassured .. that you two are accompanying me
Ahhh, it'd be so pathetic to drink alone!
Ohoh! That's a fine woman there!!
Hey, somebody .. pour me my wine!!
See, there are those types wandering about ..
W-What was that!?
Cut this out, Sir Samurai It's a disgrace!!
Hic! Hehhe, you got a pretty face!

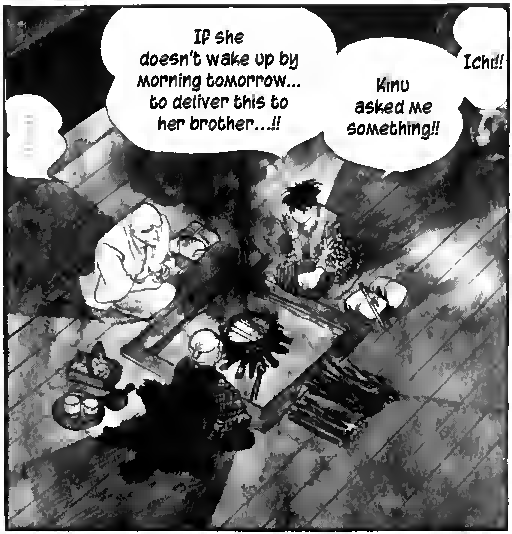
Unnngh!! I'll cut you in two!!
But wrong's wrong, isn't it?
H-how dare a mere townsman talk back to a samurai!!
waah!
Awa wa...

ヒュ〜!
Now stay in there till you cool off!
Aieeee! S-S-Somebody help me!!



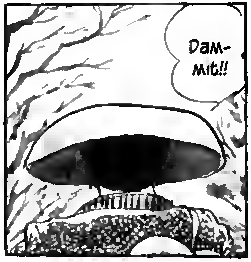
Oh, is that so...?
.. We haven't had a blizzard like this in ages..

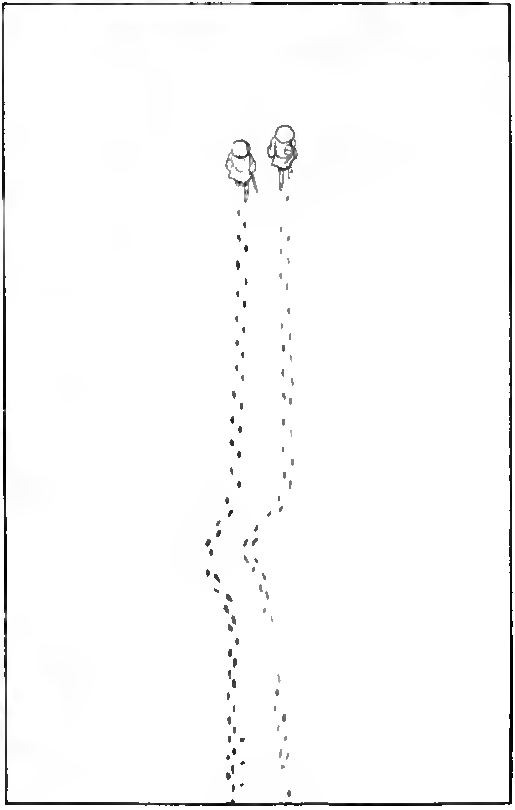

Oh, no... Don't worry about it!! We're only journeying on minor business, after all..!!
Y...Yes. I'm so sorry, Sabu...
I've caused you trouble... at each and every turn...
Are you alright... Kinu...?
Yes...
Your companion seems to be in bad shape...
I could see my brother again tomorrow if I just cross this mountain...
Ahh. this is so frustrating!
Oh... How is she, Sabu?
She... never really had a strong constitution to begin with, and now with the fatigue of a long journey and this cold... It's really gotten to her!!


IF she doesn't wake up by morning tomorrow... to deliver this to her brother...!!
Kinu asked me something!!
Ichi!!

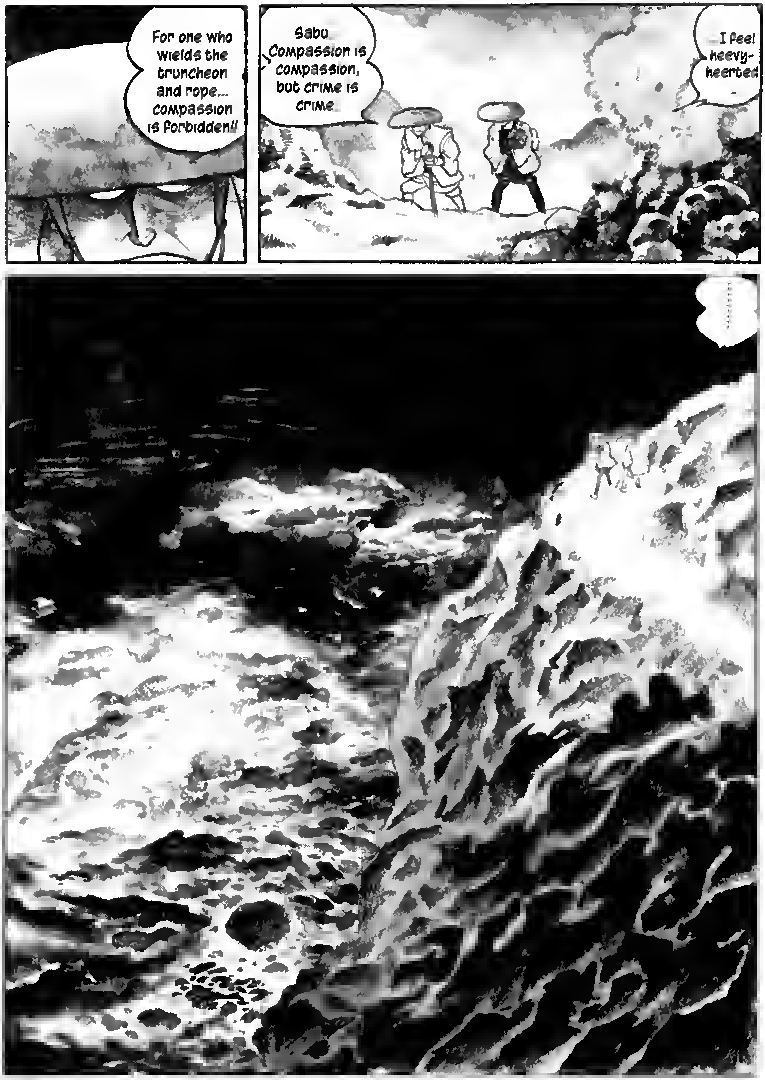
Resting.

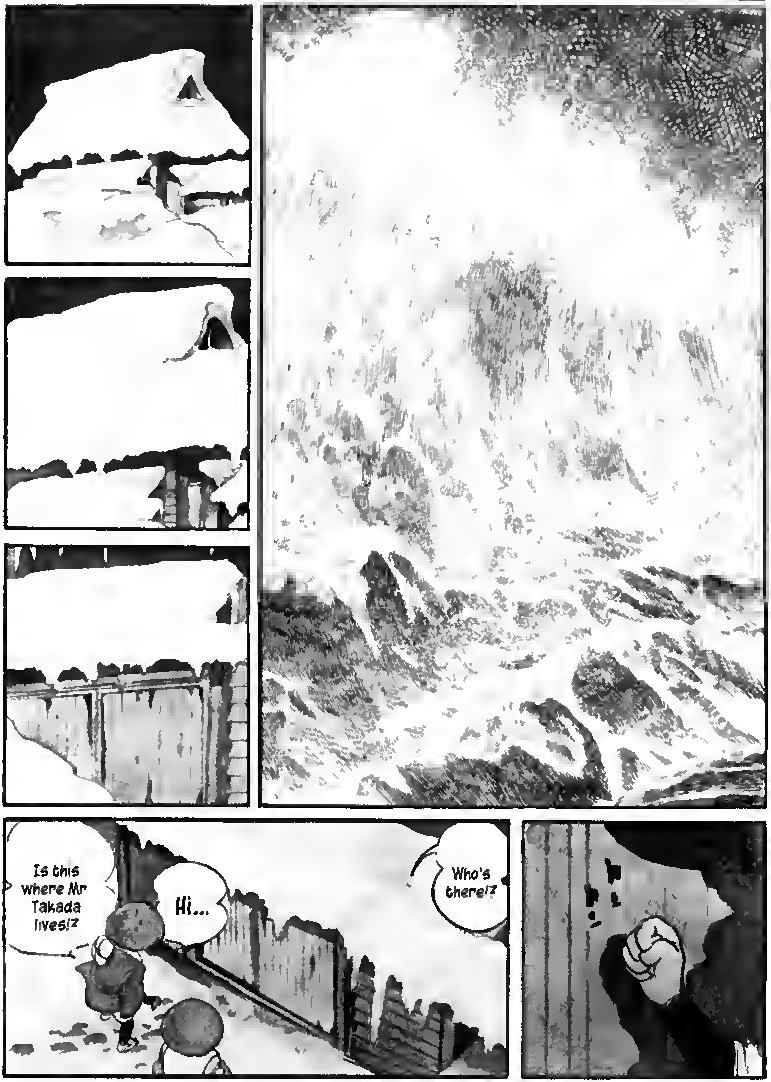
Sabu !?


Dam-
mit!!



Why did
things
have to
turn out
like this!?


For one who wields the truncheon and rope... compassion is forbidden!!
Sabu... Compassion is compassion, but crime is crime...
...I feel heavy-hearted...
.....


Is this where Mr Takada lives?
Hi...
Who's there?

Yes, you see... Kinu... I mean, your sister wanted us to bring this to you...
I'm Takada... but who are you?

My sister.. is sleeping just across the Mountain!?

She caught a cold..
Resting at an old hunter's house... across the Mountain.
My sister? Kinu.. Where is Kinu...!?

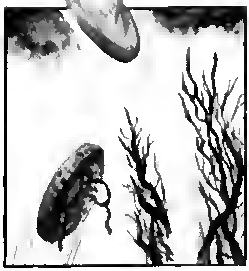
.....
Yes, the thing that I asked from my sister..
What is it?
Hey, what's going on, Takada?

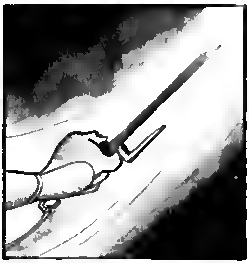
at!?
Wh-

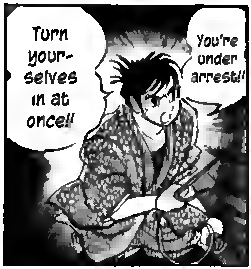
Gold stolen from Sakaiya ...!!
There's gold... in that package, correct!?

That'll help out We were starting to get discouraged!!
Oh, that's right.

Three months ago, a group of three broke into Sakaiya's store, and not only slaughtered their whole family, but made off with their money box... That was you, wasn't it!?
Mmmgh, just who are you...!?
H-How could you... possibly know we were here...!?



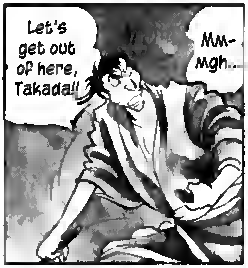



Turn yourselves in at once!!
You're under arrest!!

And so we followed after her..
Your sister then set out travelling.
Takada... It was the letter you wrote to your sister!!
Hmmm!?

Immediately after the case happened... we did an exhaustive search of any ronin that had suddenly come into money.
The way they were killed suggested a skilled samurai...
and if their aim was money... it must be a ronin in want of money.. So we kept our eye open!
You must've been planning to leave Edo until the dust settled...
But the Sun sees all wrongdoing.
Urrrgh!
I...I wanted to heal my sister's illness ..!!
That's why... That's why I joined them...!!
Takada... I suggest you come with me without a fight... For your sister's sake!!
And so... You popped up!!
...You, who couldn't even spare enough money for cheap medicine for your ill sister to that point..
were suddenly able to afford Barbarian medicine at a shockingly high price.
However... You had gone into hiding... and that's why we followed your sister!!
Takada! Kill them!!
Kch, that won't be happening!!

イヤアア
You idiot!!
D... Damn!
Urgh!
Iyaaaaaaaah!!

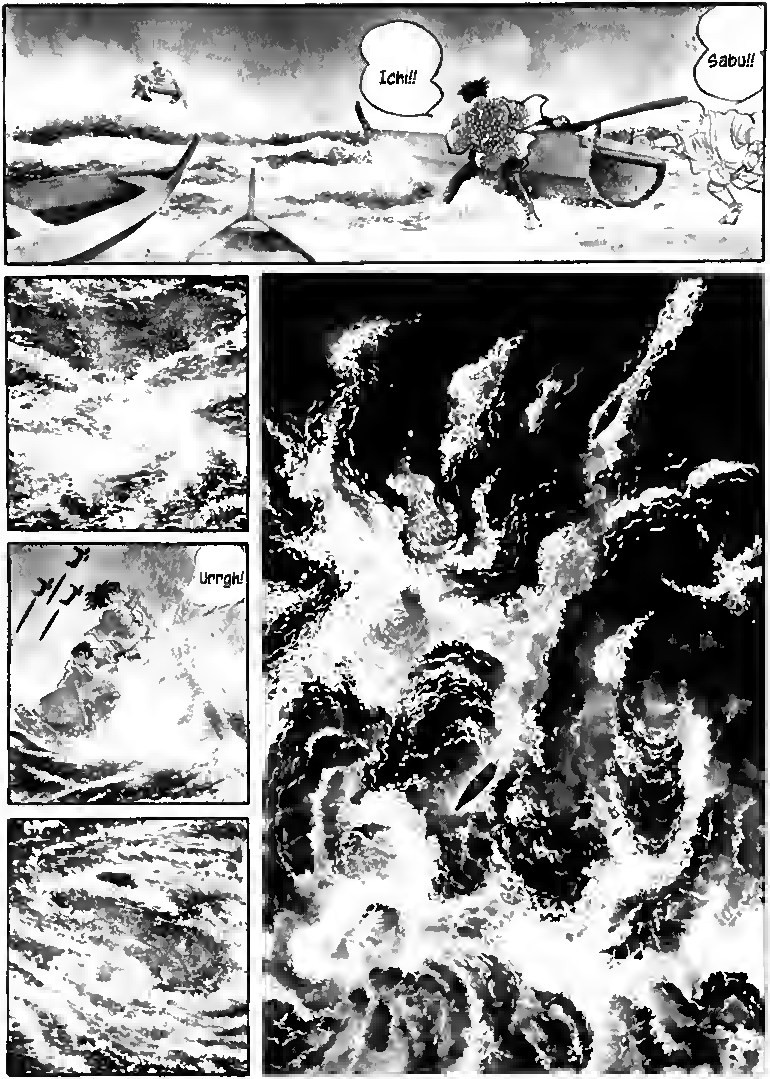

Let's get out of here, Takada!!
Mm-mgh...

Gaaah!

Waa-augh!!

Kch!

G-Get back here, you bastard!!


Ichi!!
Sabu!!
Urrgh!

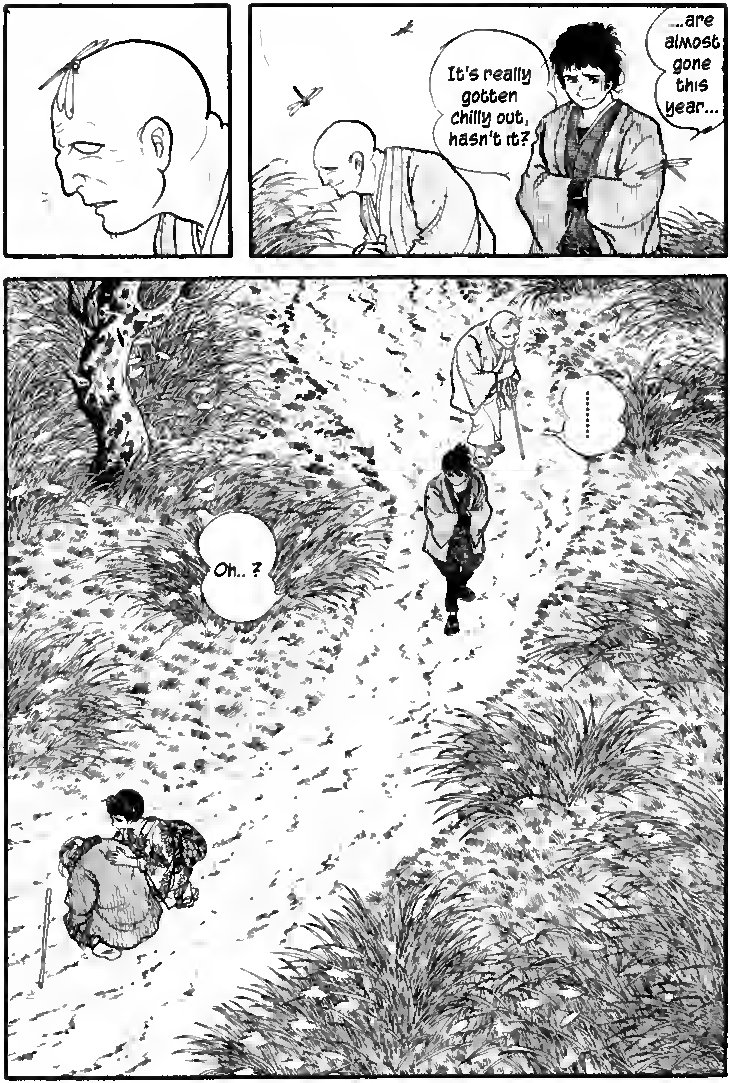
Ahhh... A whirlpool...!!
Ichi, we're passing them!!
Waaah!
Huh?

January 1969: "Pursuit" (FIN)

佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 81
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

Chapter 82: Snow Aphid

...The red dragon-flies...


It's really gotten chilly out, hasn't it?
...are almost gone this year...
.....
Oh.. ?

...Hang in there, Father...
Father!
.. What happened here...!?
Ah...
My father just suddenly started writhing in agony...
That's awful...!
Let me see..
You'd better either call a doctor or take him home immediately!
This is bad...
..Will you help?

So you're
Huh? Naru-Miya!?
We live at Naromiya.
..Where's your house...?
..the Man-agen!?
Well, that's a surprise..I didn't recog-nize you..!!
..He suddenly lost a drastic amount of weight this past month..
You're right.. I'm sure he was more plump last time we saw him..
He's taken ill,
..beyond hope of recovery...
.....
How do you know my name...?
...I thank you so much, Boss Sabu..

Well, there's a lot of..
W-What kind...?
W-What kind? A reputation!?
O...Oh, you see... You have quite a reputation in these parts..!
...just a while longer..
Let me see it..
Hey there, handsome...!
Heh... hehe he...
Oh, but it's not...
Father!
Tch, Ichi!
Don't make fun of me... I'll bet it's not a good reputation...
W-Wait..!
...I have a feeling that it might be my last chance to see it...
...Let me see this evening landscape a while longer..!

NARUMIYA

Ahh! What's the matter, Master ...!?
Nami-yoshi! Hurry and call Doctor Koan...!!
Ah!
We must be off...
...Well, tell the manager to take care.

...The sun's already set by now...
No, no, we really must be going
I can make you some...
...I'm sorry.. Why don't you come in for a minute?

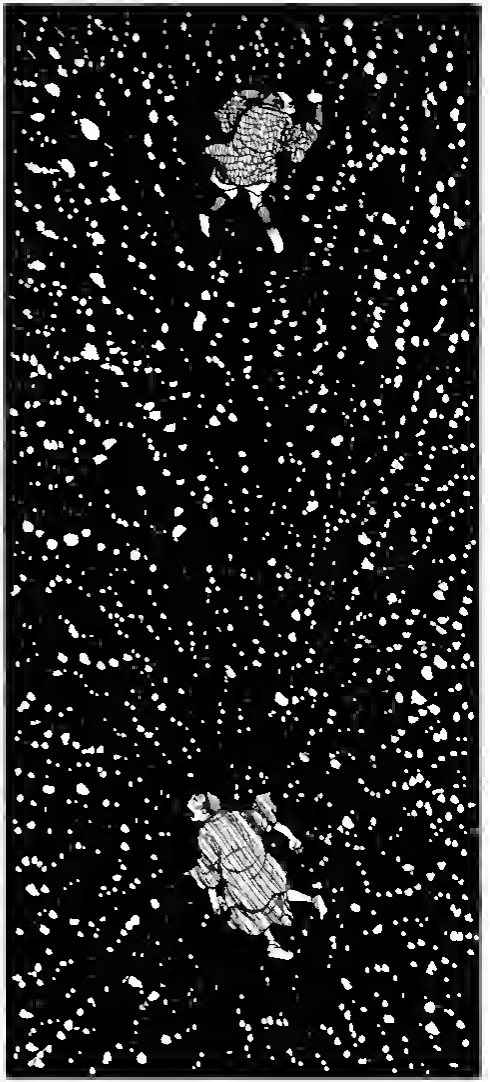
..We'll be back soon, so take care of yourselves..

.....

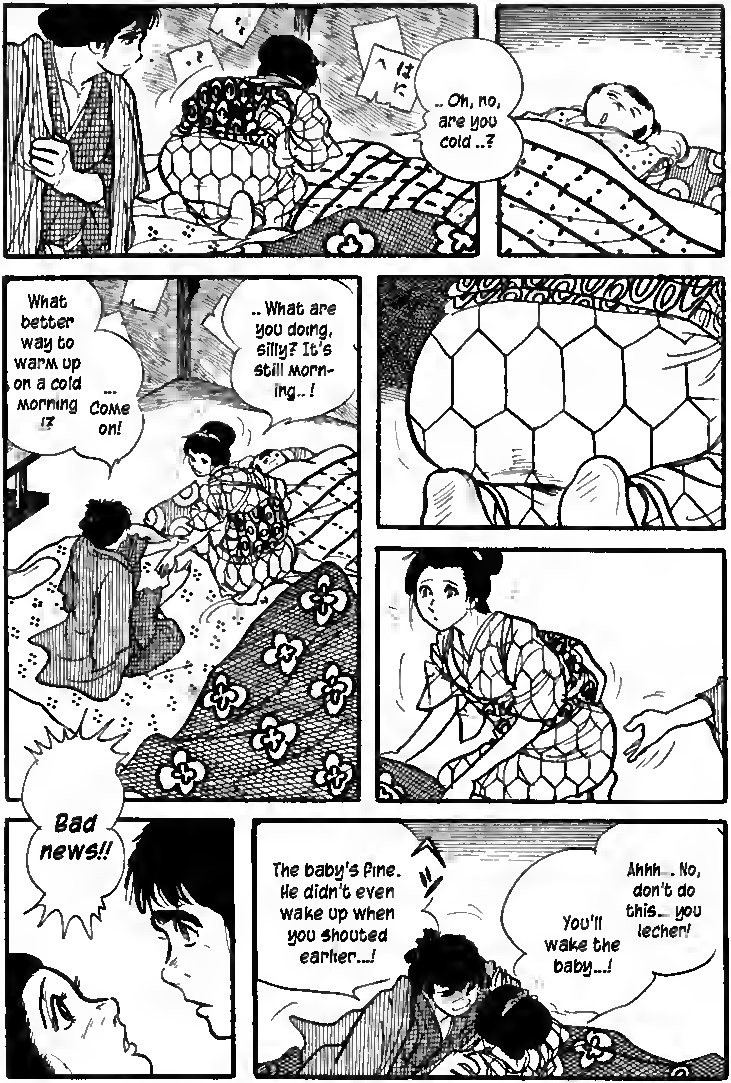
...He smelled like a dead man.

Huh!?
..I hate to say it, but he doesn't have long

Hmm...?
Dear!!
Dear, hurry .. Wake up and look at this ..!



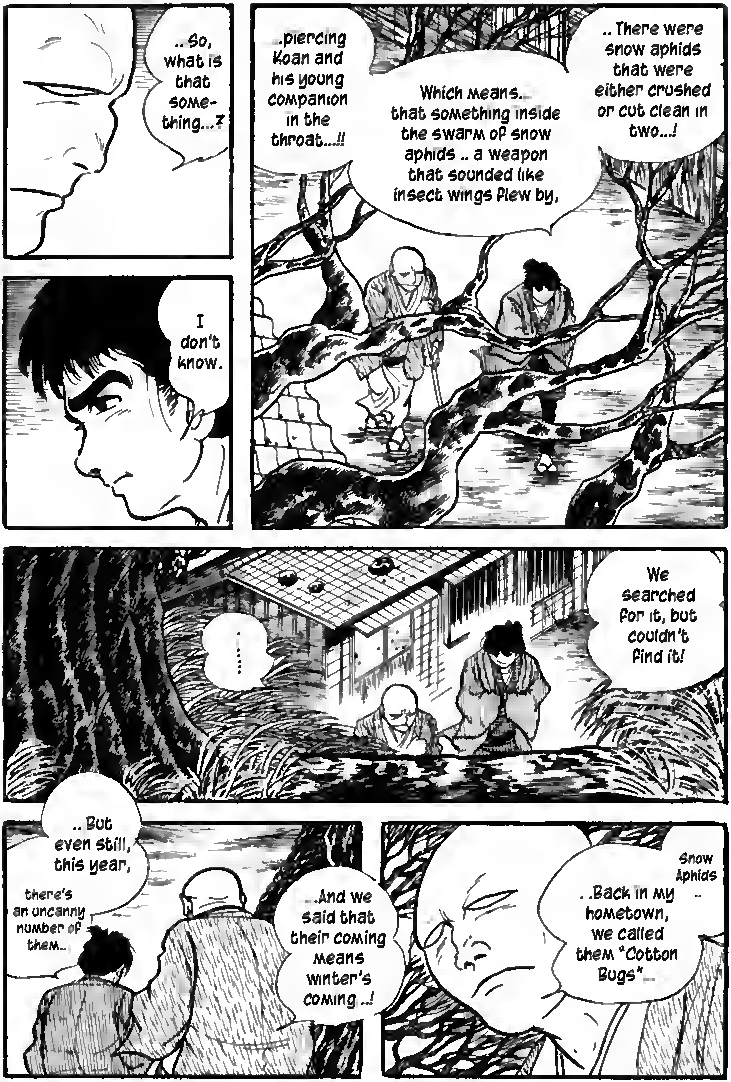
What !?
...Or so I thought at first...
Snow!!
...What do you want me to...?
...Incredible!
They look just like snow!
It's insects ?
Snow aphids ...
...Isn't it surprising...?
...I hope it's not a premonition for something horrible...
Then again... This is a little...
.. And with the snow aphids comes... winter...


..?
はに
.. Oh, no, are you cold ..?
What better way to warm up on a cold morning !?
... Come on!
.. What are you doing, silly? It's still morning.. !
Bad news!!
The baby's fine. He didn't even wake up when you shouted earlier...!
You'll wake the baby...!
Ahhh... No, don't do this... you lecher!

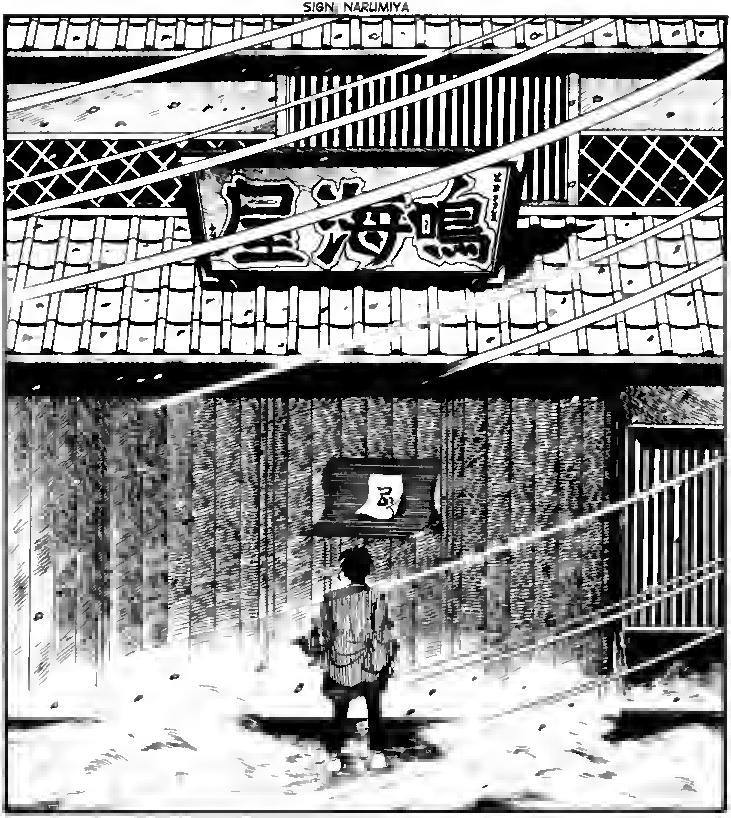
Boss, there's been...
There's been a murder!
...The victim was Koan, the doctor..
Koan!?

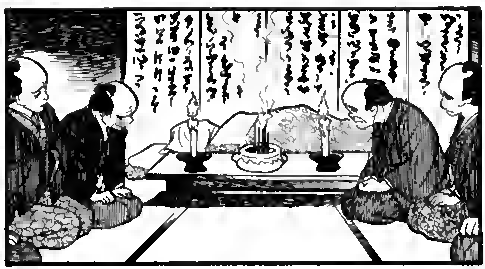
When I asked him who killed them...
Well, strangely enough...
...He said he heard what sounded like insect wings, then the doctor collapsed...
Insect?
...You don't think it was the sound of these snow aphids' wings?
...I was sleeping in the guardhouse, when the guy who discovered the body jumped in.
And when I got to the scene, his young companion was still breathing..
..And he said it was Doctor Koan...
Did his companion... the other victim say anything...?

Huh? This snow aphid only has one wing.
These things are so tiny, their wings wouldn't make a sound!
...So I had "Bad-News Tame"
...search the area,
...And that just made Tame go "Oh, no", "Oh, no", as he searched...
But he found them...!


.. So, what is that some-thing...?
I don't know.
..piercing Koan and his young companion in the throat...!!
Which means.. that something inside the swarm of snow aphids .. a weapon that sounded like insect wings flew by,
.. There were snow aphids that were either crushed or cut clean in two...!
We searched for it, but couldn't find it!
.. But even still, this year,
there's an uncanny number of them..
..And we said that their coming means winter's coming ..!
Snow Aphids
..Back in my hometown, we called them "Cotton Bugs"...

.. Both insects and beasts have times when they swarm like mad for reasons unknown..!
Whatever the case, their numbers grow and grow... and by the end of the season, the food's all gone.
.. and they all die out, except the strong and clever ones...!
Hey, Midori!
Break-fast!
.. And make sure there's some for Ichi.
Yes, yes...
I have it ready inside!


白海鳥



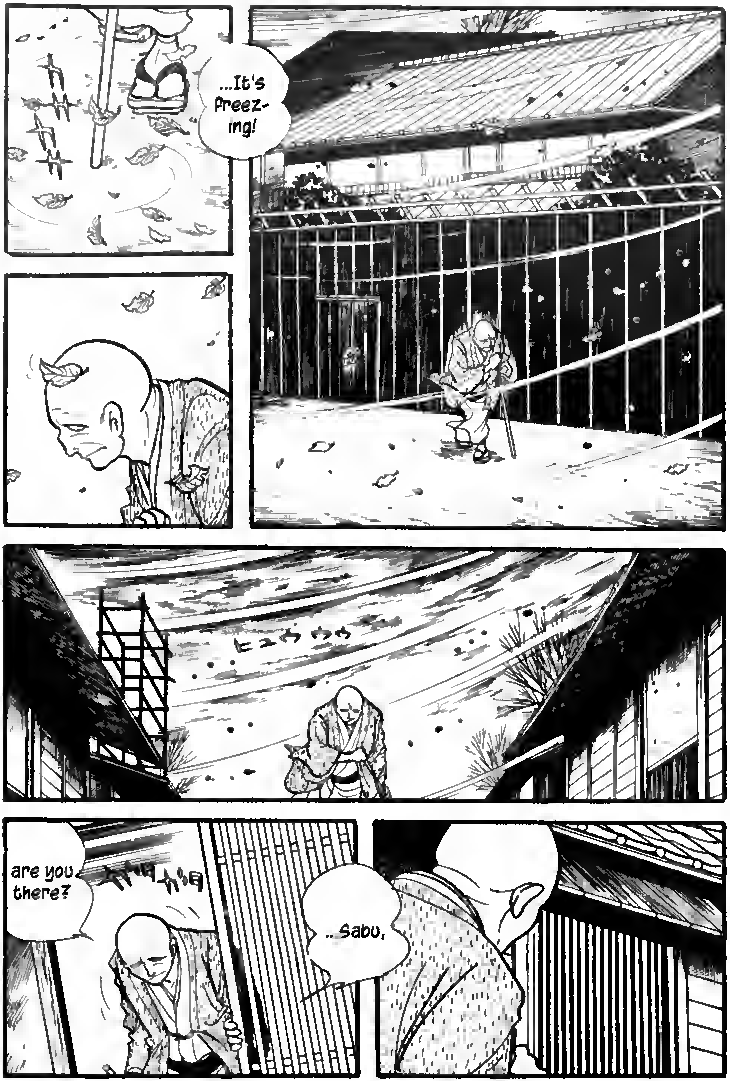
...I didn't know...!
Ex-cuse me..
...I hope you can stay strong...
Oh, no I'm sorry I couldn't help more
It's a real shame..!
Boss Sabu, I thank you so much for your help the other day
Boss,
I hope . that you can continue to aid me from now on!!
Y... Yes!

.....
I'm coming!
Could you please come this way, My lady ..?
he was killed in that field!
and was on his way home, when.
Dr. Koan examined the menager of Narumiya,
And seeing how his purse was untouched...
it wasn't a thief?!
Hmm!?

They're Namiyoshi's...?
Oh?
was born the child of a fisher near Otso..
Yes... From what I hear, the head clerk...
..There sure are plenty of fishing rods!
Did the manager... like to fish...?
Oh, these fishing rods? They belong to the head clerk, Namiyoshi!
. Now why would a fisher's son become a head clerk?

So, back when he was a child?
And he caught the manager's eye, and he took him in...
...We're a marine wholesale store...
so our manager often went to the seaside.
He and the young lady will soon be...
Huh.. Didn't you know?
A fisher's child growing up to succeed such a large store...!
..But he must've been blessed!
Not exactly a child... I believe he was already thirteen or fourteen...
Huh?
.....
But then this suddenly happened...
And the manager was truly looking forward to seeing it...

……
あえ
はいろ
Guess I'M.... getting old.


...It's freez-ing!
ヒュウウウ
are you there?
..Sabu,

Sata, was it?
...I see...
Oh, Ichi
My husband... went out early this morning...
Here, Sabaro!
Say hello... to Uncle Ichi!

...It was all my fault...!
...All because my father said he wanted to see the sunset from this field, no matter what...
...I should have stopped him...
But that's... not your fault!
Young lady, you're...
No!
...Call me Sanae...

...I'm cold!
...Thank you...
I saw you.. going around town with Boss Saheiji...
If only you didn't.. have a wife.
Ever since ..
I was a child ..

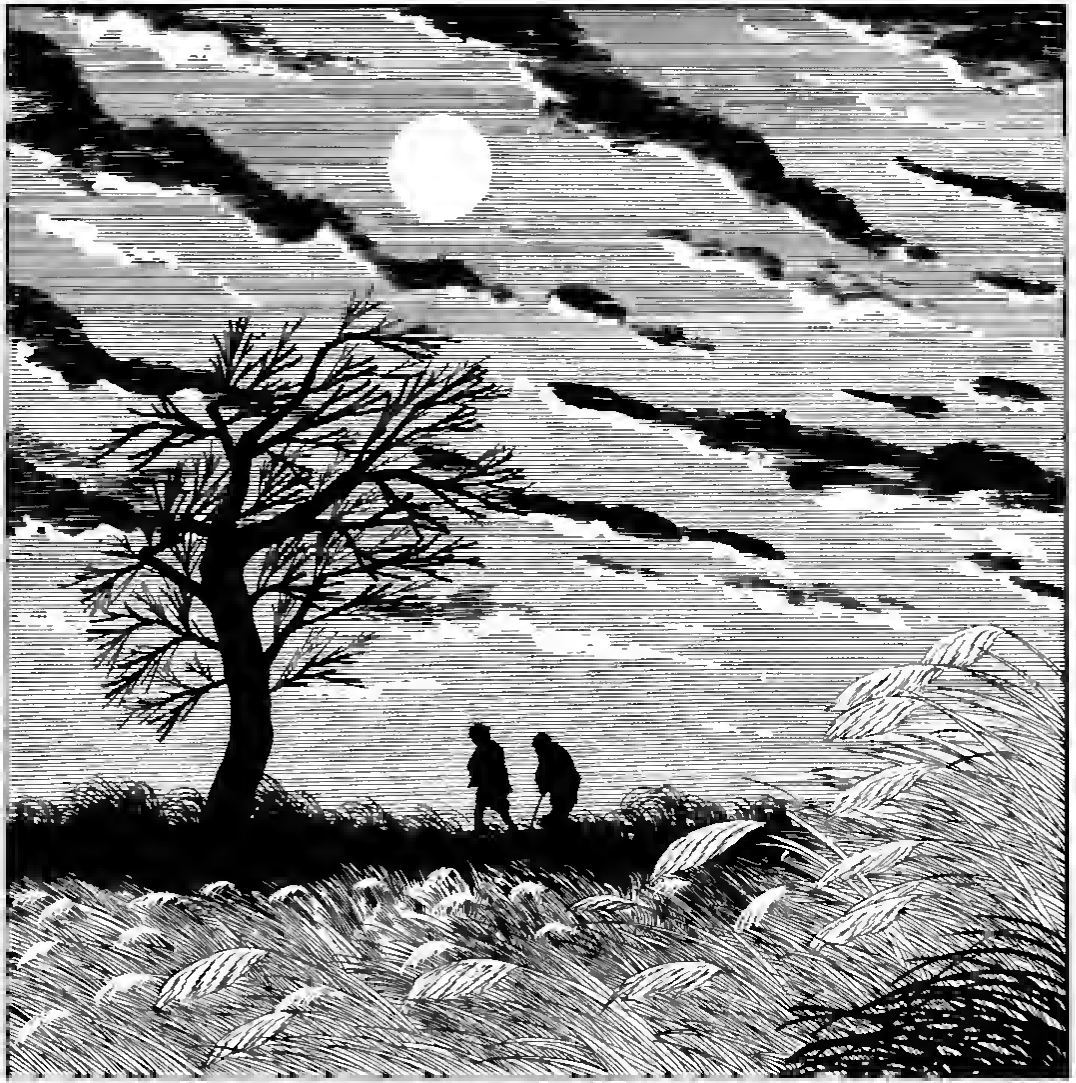
Young ladies like you shouldn't be out this...
Oh, My lady! ...What were you doing out at such a late hour?
.....
...Why don't you stop telling me what to do, Namiyoshi!?
.....

……
...I guess that that girl's fallen head over heels for me...!

W-What, you don't believe me...?
It's true! I mean...
Sounds ridiculous Hehe...
Hmph
B-But she...
hates Namiyoshi...
The tone of that strong-willed girl's voice gets suddenly more forceful when she talks to Namiyoshi than to her other employees.
...Haven't you noticed, Sabu?
..That could be it.
..And with her father dead, they'd have to be joined as soon as possible for the sake of their shop's administration...
..She couldn't refuse him herself...
...But he's her partner designated by her father.. And he's earnest and hardworking.. And nothing bad about him stands out.

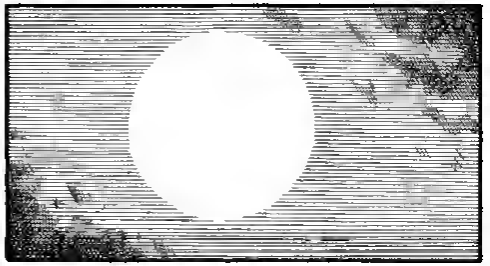
Or her "feminine intuition" can see something she dislikes in him..
Either that, or Namiyoshi doesn't have any charming attributes as a man.
...It's true that she may not have fallen for Namiyoshi.
..So she might have half-heartedly resigned herself, but
..you, Sabu, whom she's admired since childhood, waltzes into her life.
But either way, as her girlish mind was wavering,
..Or possibly, it's simply her position of being forced into this...
S..So you're saying..
...that this is just to spite Namiyoshi..?

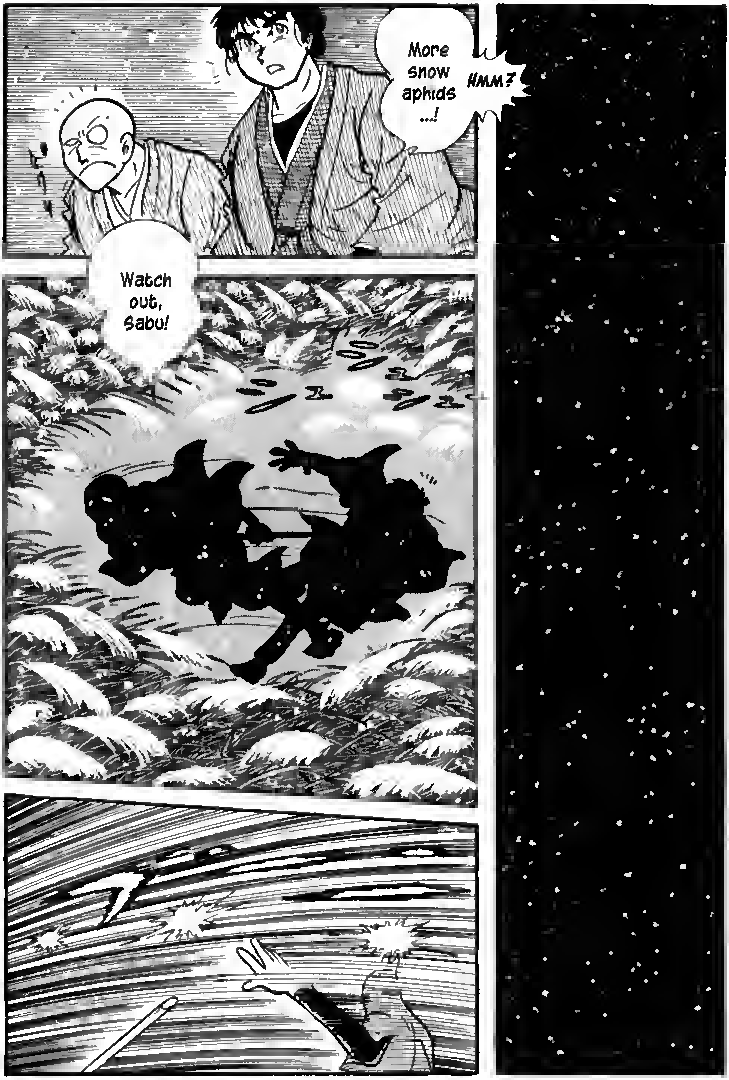
Dear!
..These kinds of things, I can see far better than you can
...A messenger just came from Narumiya..
Huh?
..This late? What kind of man did she send as a messenger ..?
.. He says the young lady wants you to come at once!
Sabu, Mind if I... join you?
He was young .. but he was wearing a fine outfit .. Maybe he was a head clerk?

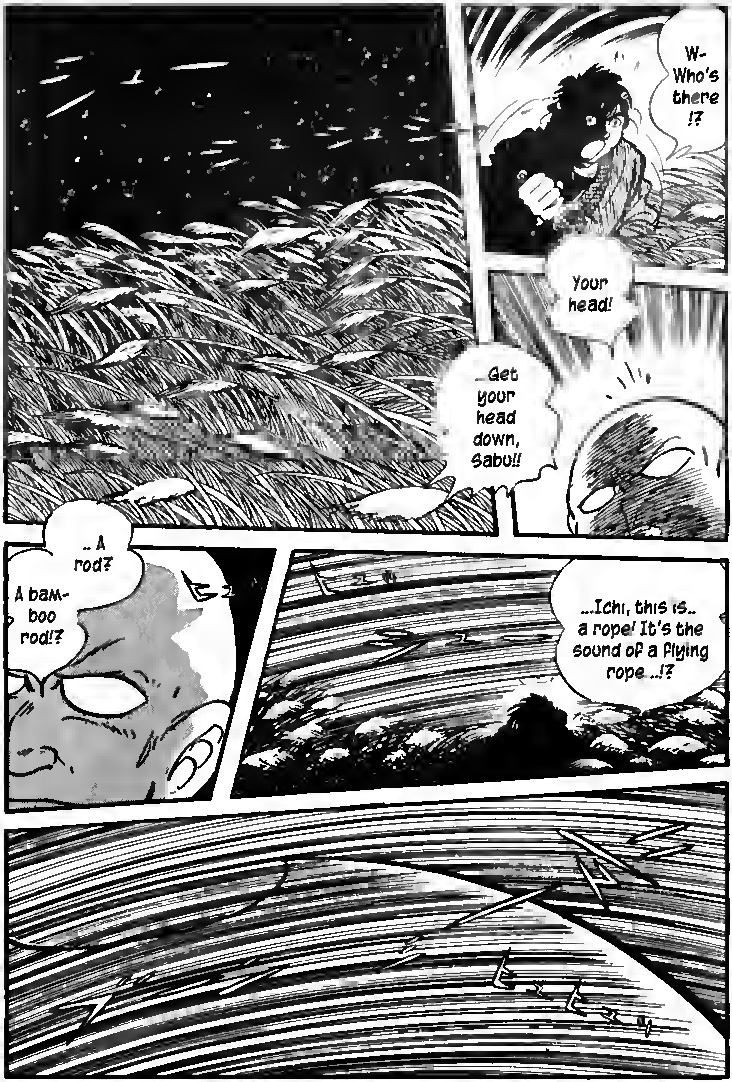


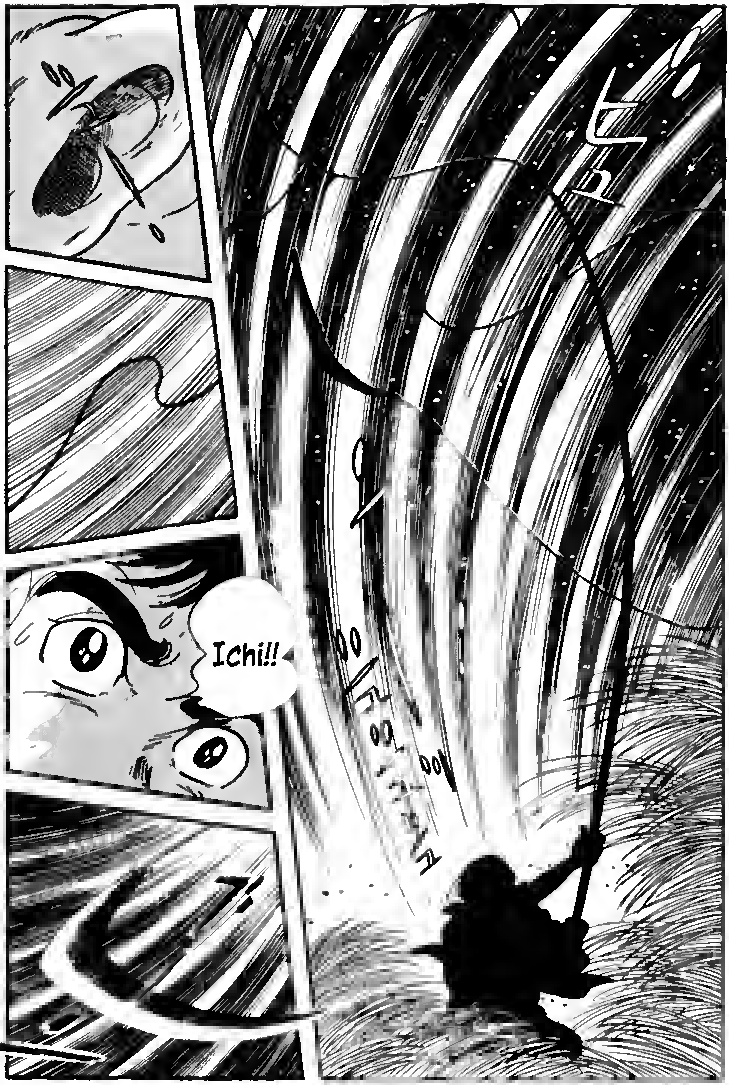
...Just a wife's "intuition"...!
H-How did you even know that I'd be here?

Be careful...!

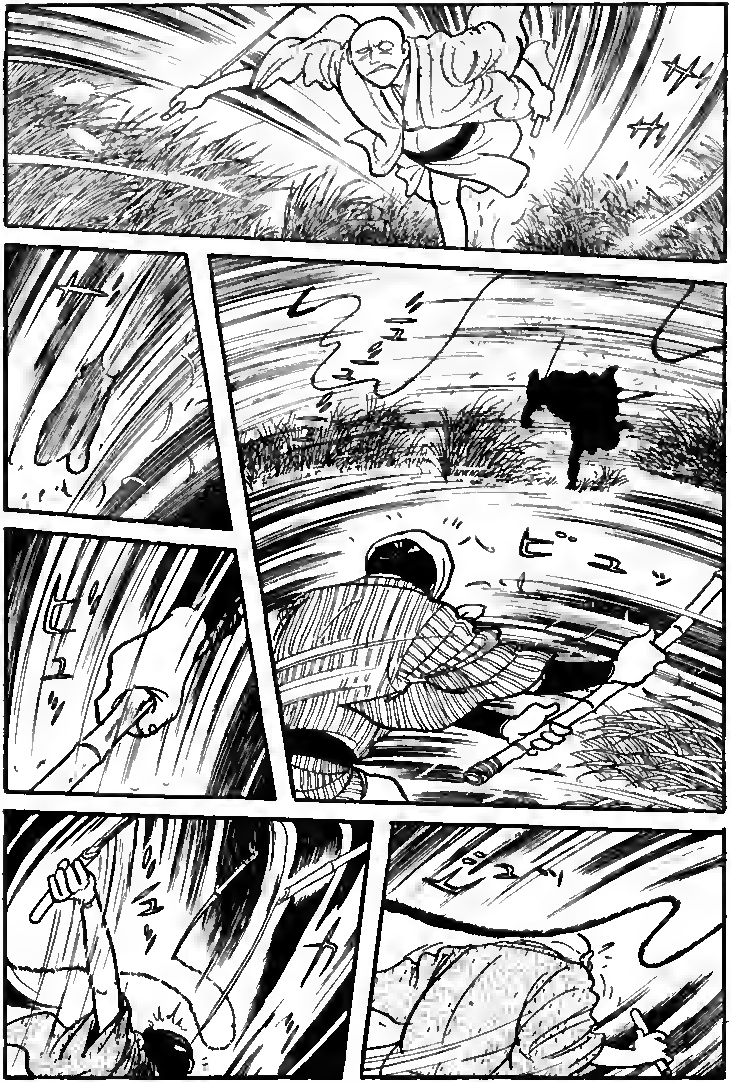



More snow aphids ...!
HMM?
Watch out, Sabu!

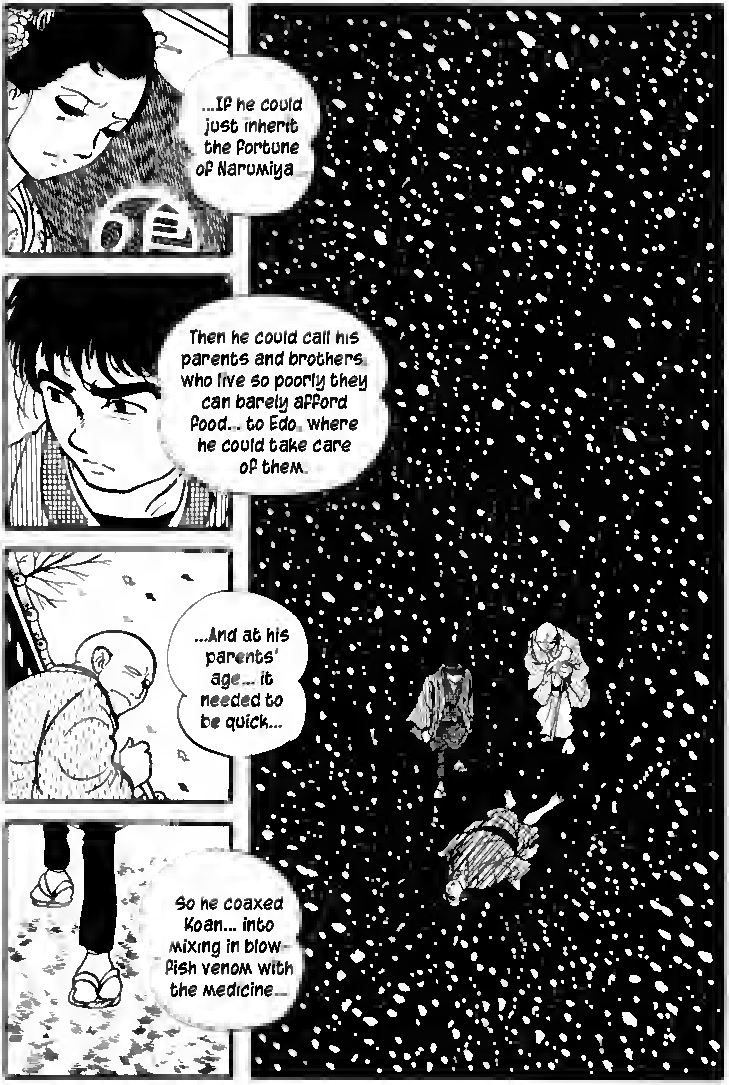

W-Who's there!?
Your head!
...Get your head down, Sabu!!
...A rod?
A bamboo rod!?
...Ichi, this is... a rope! It's the sound of a flying rope...!?

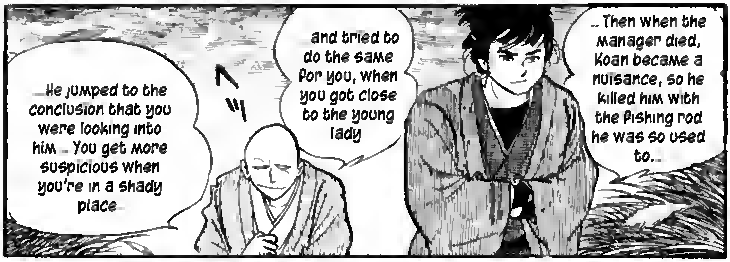

Ichi!!

Ichi!
You just stand still, Sabu!!
The night is my time to shine...!
Look out, Ichi!!
Tch!!


ヒュッ
ヒュッ
ヒュッ
ヒュッ

Ichi!
...Ichi!
Nami-yoshi!?
T-This is...
G...Guess I'M... getting old...!!
I...I thought that if the manager died...
T-Then the young lady.. would have... to rely on me...

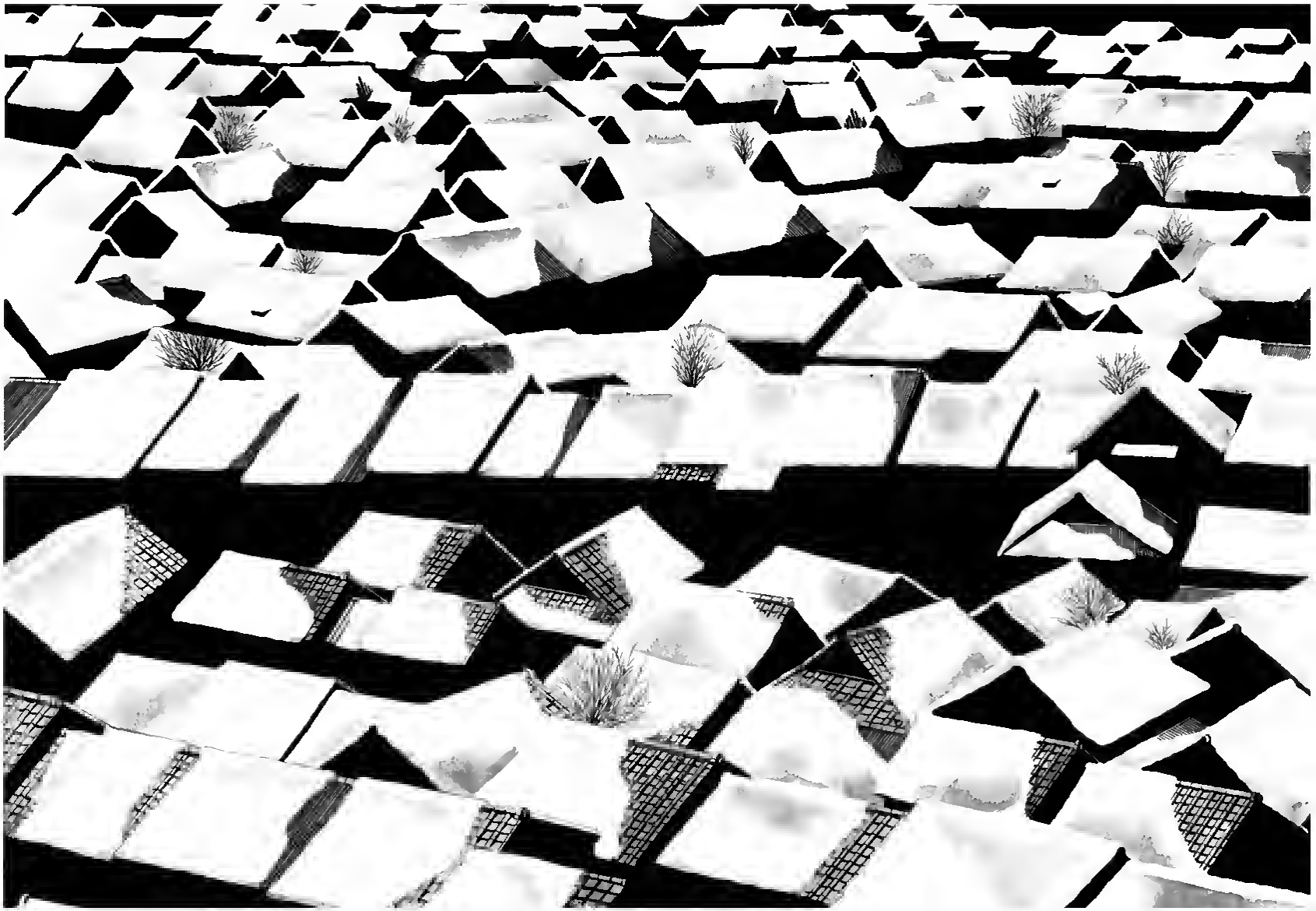

...If he could just inherit the fortune of Narumiya...
Then he could call his parents and brothers, who live so poorly they can barely afford food... to Edo, where he could take care of them.
...And at his parents' age... it needed to be quick...
So he coaxed Koan... into mixing in blowfish venom with the medicine...

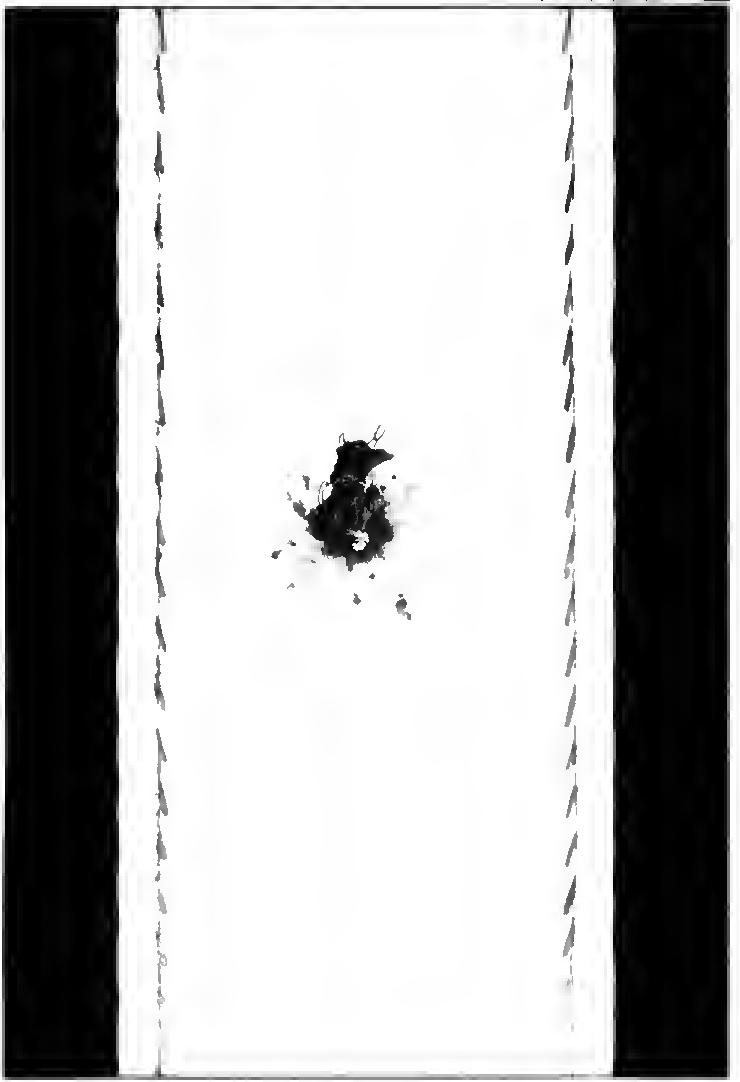

...Then when the manager died, Koan became a nuisance, so he killed him with the fishing rod he was so used to...
and tried to do the same for you, when you got close to the young lady
...He jumped to the conclusion that you were looking into him... You get more suspicious when you're in a shady place

...An over-population of snow aphids, huh...

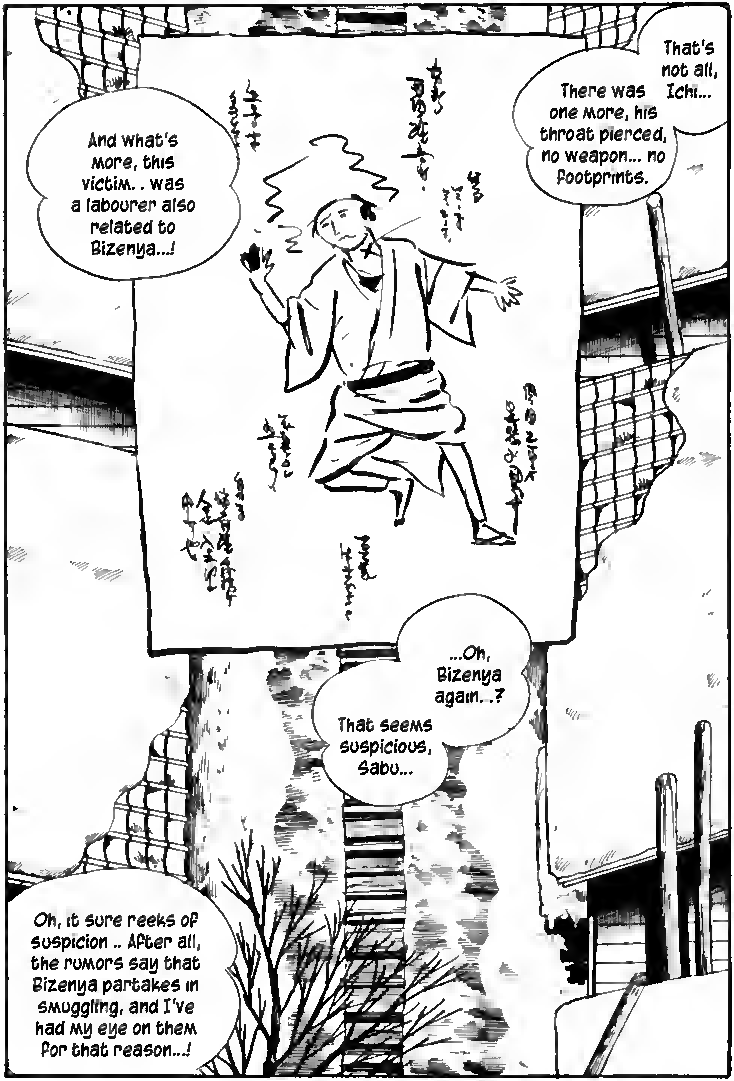
佐武と市捕物控
SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 82
PRESENTED BY
HOKUTO NO GUN
AND HAPPY SCANS
TRANSLATED BY
SYSTEMATICCHAOS
CLEANED BY
WRIGHT
TYPESETTING BY
KAZUHIKO
PROOFREADING BY
ANGELOFCHAOTIX
CREDITS PAGE BY
FROBMAN
WRITTEN BY
ISHINOMORI
SHOTARO

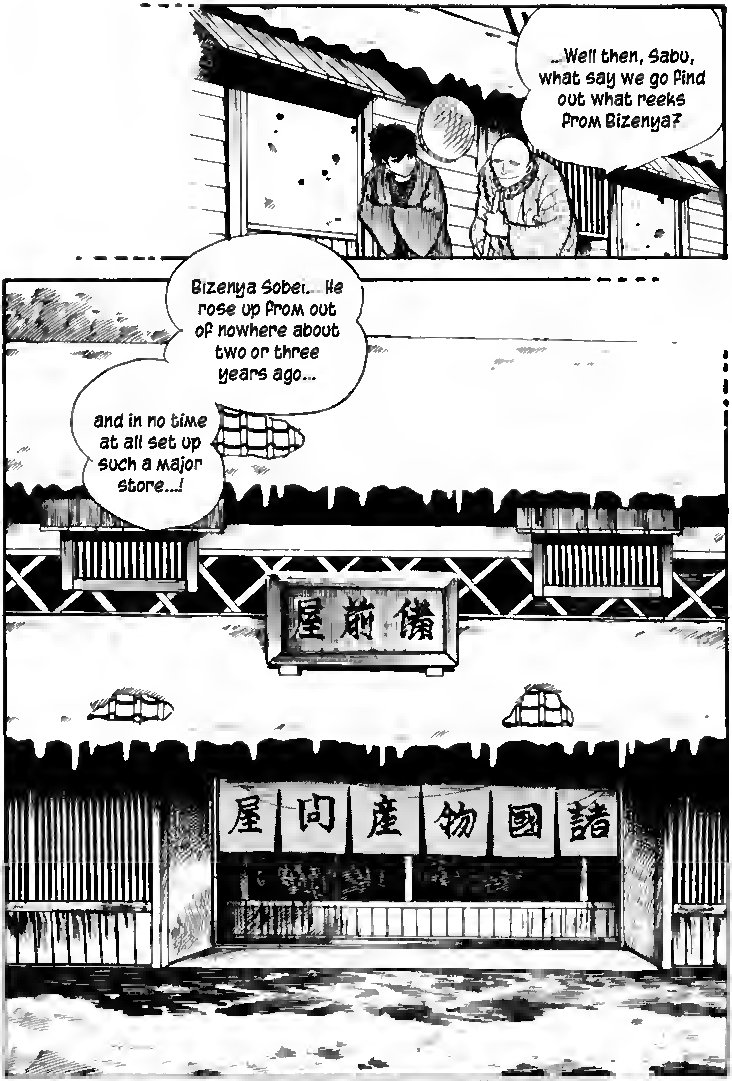
Chapter 83: The Frozen Blood





...But the strangest thing is that there were no footprints even remotely close to the victim... even with all this snow...!
I thought that the murder weapon would be a knife, but it was nowhere to be found.
...The victim was pierced through the throat.
His blood was frozen... but it was the amount lost that bothered me.
...The victim was Fujiyoshi, a sales clerk at the regional products store Bizenya in Ryogoku
The master, Sobei, believes it was a thief, but we can obviously tell it wasn't, see how Fujiyoshi's purse was untouched..

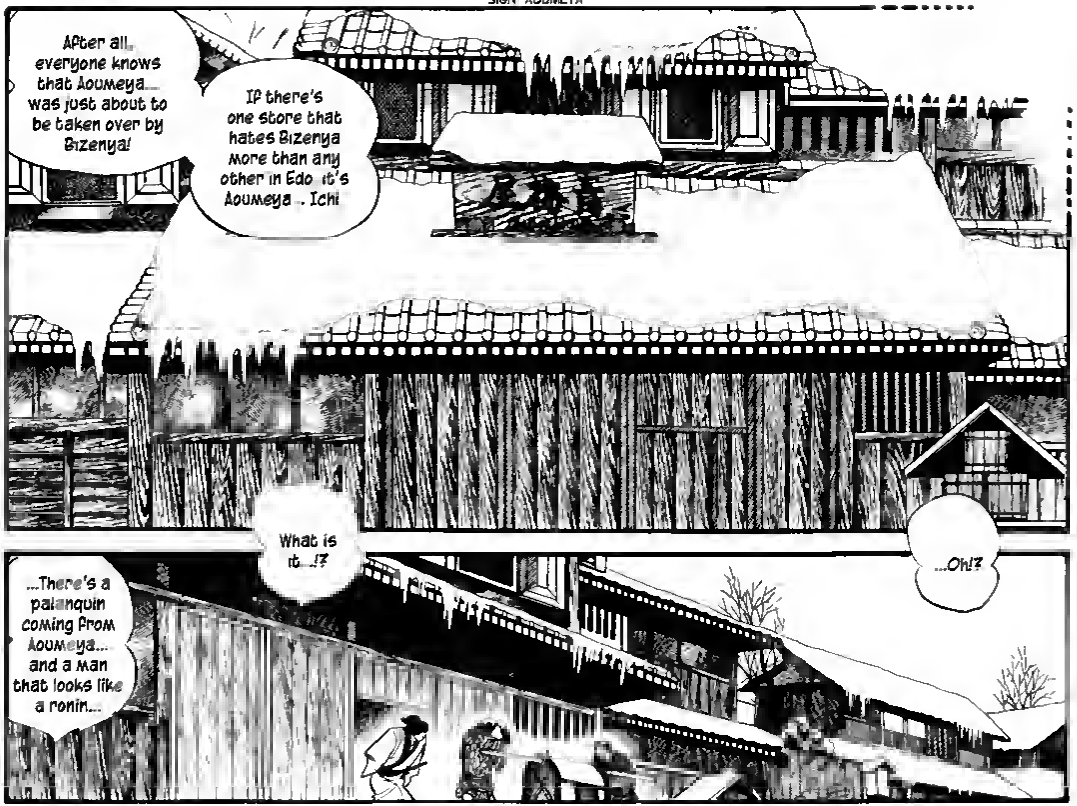

That's not all, Ichi...
There was one more, his throat pierced, no weapon... no footprints.
And what's more, this victim. . was a labourer also related to Bizenya...!
...Oh, Bizenya again..?
That seems suspicious, Sabu...
Oh, it sure reeks of suspicion .. After all, the rumors say that Bizenya partakes in smuggling, and I've had my eye on them for that reason...!

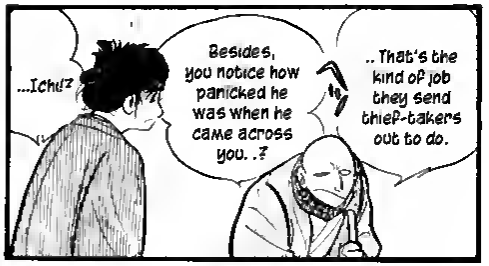

...Well then, Sabu, what say we go find out what reeks from Bizenya?
Bizenya Sobei... He rose up from out of nowhere about two or three years ago...
and in no time at all set up such a major store...!
諸國物産問屋
備前屋

SIGN: BIZENYA / REGIONAL PRODUCTS WHOLESALE STORE

...Who's that?
Hmm ...!?
There's a lot about him that seems suspicious.
...That said, while he may not seem to be thriving all that much...
Sabu, aren't you!?
What exactly are you doing here...!?
You're...
む
W. Well, if it isn't Lieutenant Ohara...!?
As a matter of fact, so was I...
Oh... Yes, I see. The victims were both connected to Bizenya, weren't they?
..I'm just investigating the recent murders ...
What am I doing ...?

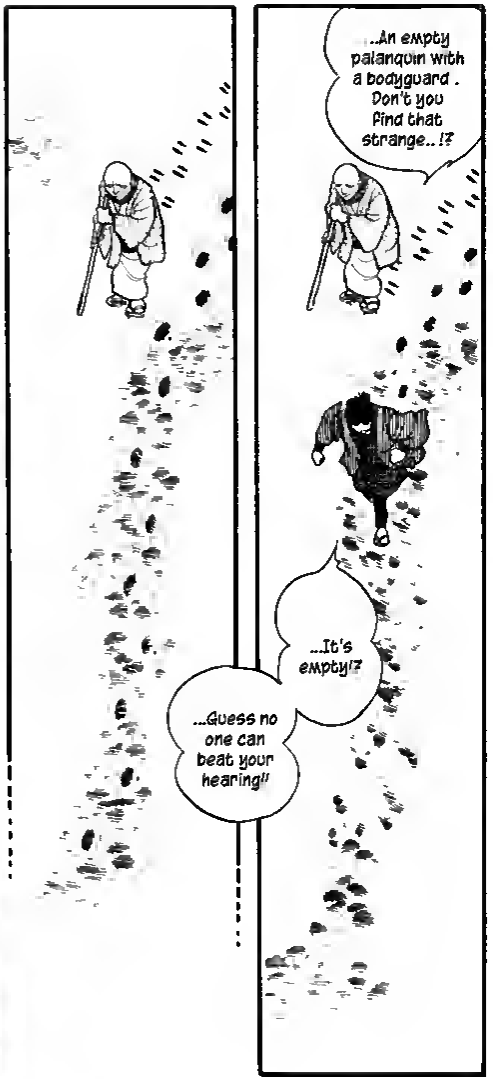
Death threats.. From who!?
But it appears that Bizenya's received two or three death threats since about ten days ago..
..That's why I dropped by here ..
Fu fu!
..Well, keep up the good work!
and I have heard that several stores in the same trade hate them for it. .
..But it does seem that Bizenya's business practices are the very image of high-handed..
I don't know that.
..Sorry to disturb you ..
Yes, thank you.
..That murderer might just be connected with one of them ..!
You really think so? You think the lieutenant would go himself to investigate a murder.. alone, at that...!?
And it really shows. He's quick and precise at his job..
.. Sir Ohara is a famed lieutenant, even in Yacchobori.


SIGN AOUMEYA
After all, everyone knows that Aoumeya... was just about to be taken over by Bizenya!
If there's one store that hates Bizenya more than any other in Edo it's Aoumeya .. Ichi
What is it...!?
...There's a palanquin coming from Aoumeya... and a man that looks like a ronin...
...Oh!?


...Ichi!?
Besides, you notice how panicked he was when he came across you. .?
.. That's the kind of job they send thief-takers out to do.

I see! So Sir Ohara even figured out about the smuggling...!?
I'm impressed!!
. My, oh, my, Sabu,
you have too high of an opinion of people...!

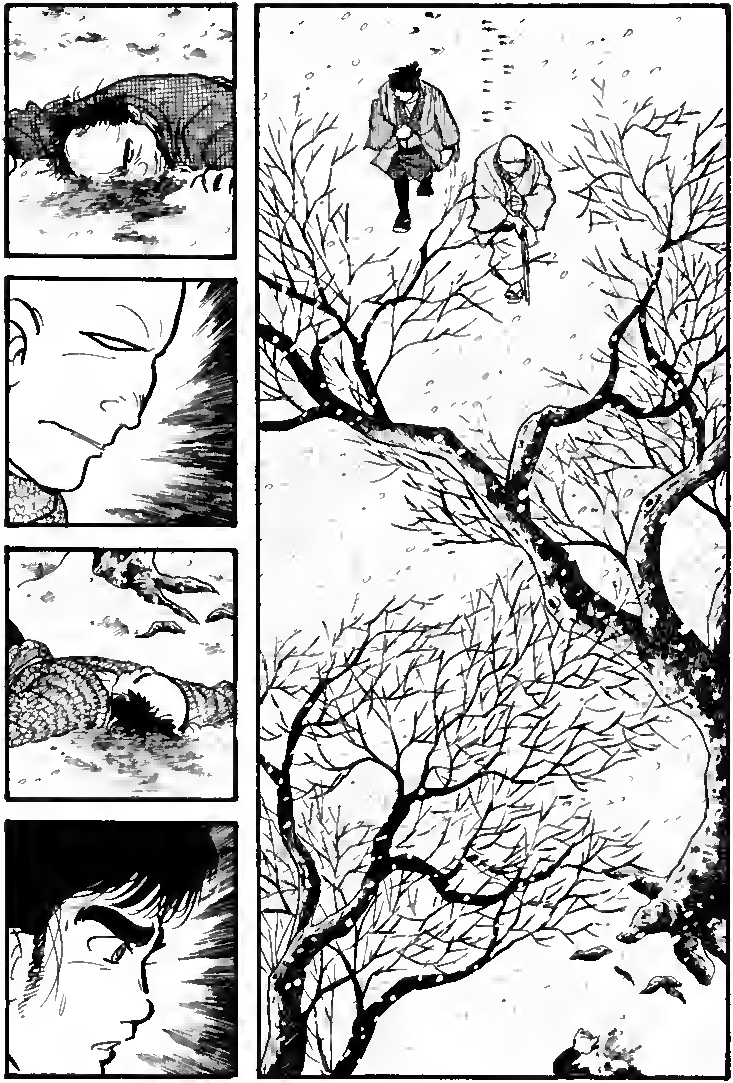
Hmm... Why!?
.. Sabu, I think you better follow that palanquin...!

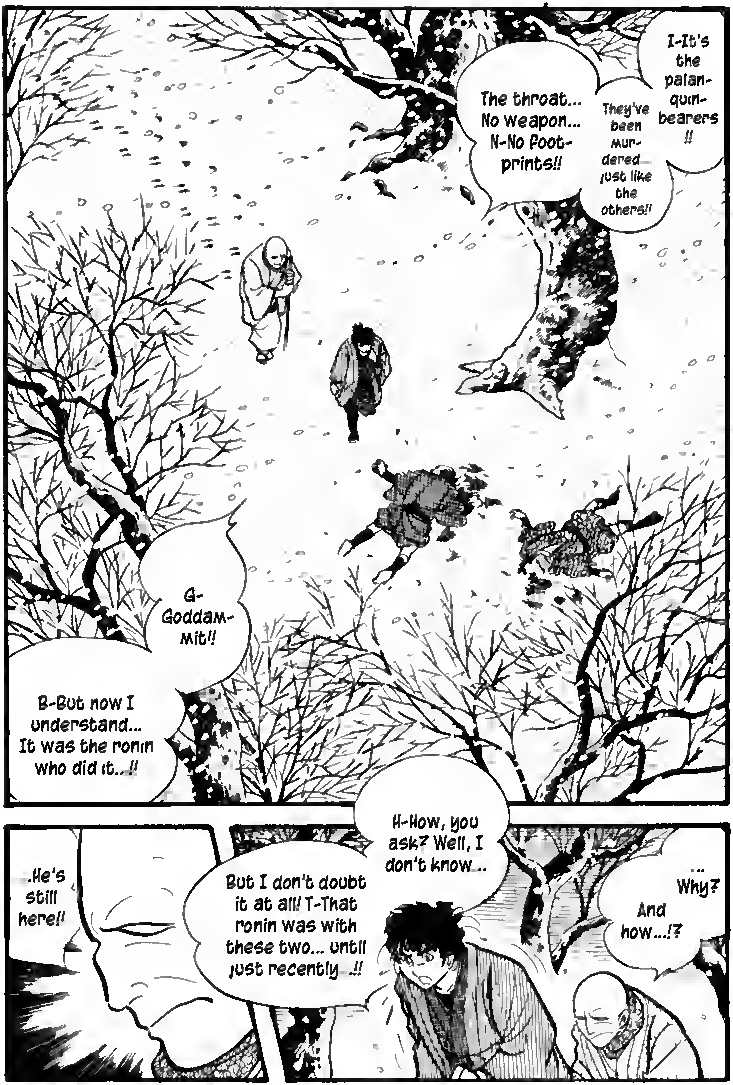

...An empty palanquin with a bodyguard. Don't you find that strange..!?
...It's empty!?
...Guess no one can beat your hearing!!

...Thank you for your business, sir.
..Sorry, sorry . I'm blind, you see..
Ahhhh!!
So this is where you were..!
Oh, come right in!

Tsuki of the Mallow Emblem!!
It went straight to a court official's mansion ..!
Where do you think that empty palanquin was headed...!?
...Don't be too shocked, Ichi!
Well, it just went back to Aoumeya..
...So where'd the palenquin go after that...!?
...Aoumeya, on the verge of collapse, and the Mallow Emblem... There can't possibly be any connection, can there!?
And after that!?
The Mallow Emblem !?
Isn't that a surprise...? What do you think's going on...!?
Let's go, Sabu!
...Is something wrong...!?
A-After that? Well, I watched the palenquin and the ronin enter Aoumeya... then I came running straight here..

...What happened afterwards rubs me the wrong way for some reason ..!
...It's snowing!
Blood .. I smell blood. .!!
Hmm... What is it, Ichi!?




I-It's the palan-quin-bearers !!
They've been mur-dered just like the others!!
The throat... No weapon... N-No foot-prints!!
G-Goddam-mit!!
B-But now I understand... It was the ronin who did it...!!
H-How, you ask? Well, I don't know...
But I don't doubt it at all! T-That ronin was with these two... until just recently...!!
...He's still here!!
...Why?
And how...!?

Huh ...!?
..He's glittering and dazzling.. like a drawn sword.
It's just the same bloodlust I sensed at Aoumeya's storefront..!!
So it's him....!?
W... Where is he, Ichi...?
I-I don't see him anywhere!
...Come with me!
Footprints!!

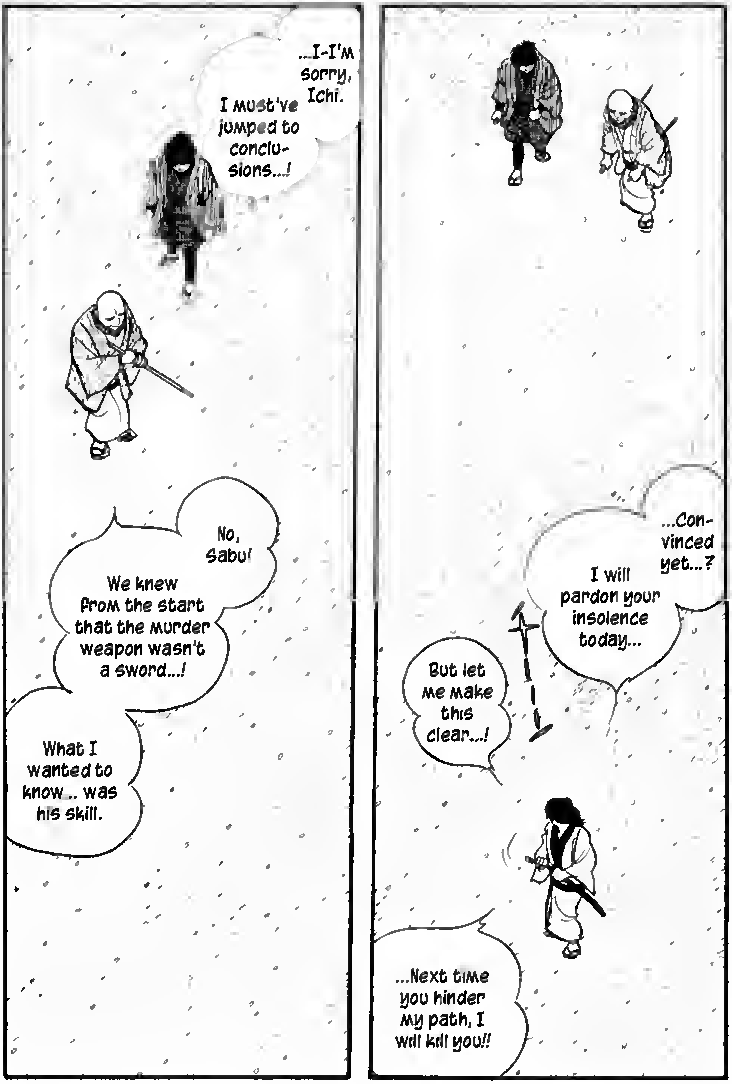
Halt, you bastard!!
S-Sabu!!
There he is!!

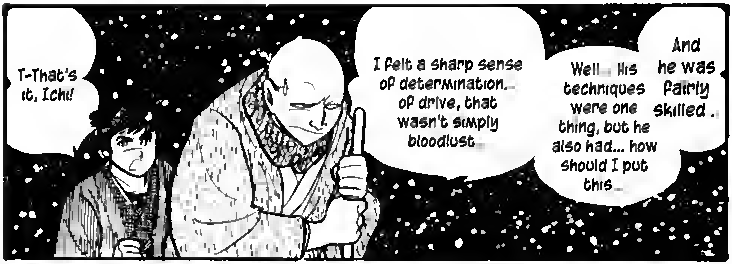
Hold it... right there!!
...May I help you...?
ウ

W-What's the matter, Sabu!?
...So!?
T.. Two palanquin-bearers were just murdered in that forest!!
. So what ?
And you're still close enough to them...!!
The same palanquin-bearers that were with you!!
Your knife!?
Where's your proof?
You... murdered them...!!

No!!
Let us see your sword!!
Then your sword!!
..I have it right here..!
My knife?
ワナワナ
ワナ
Wait, Sabu!!
Unless you're eager to die ..!?
..I only draw my sword when I intend to kill...!
What!?
I'll make him draw ...!!

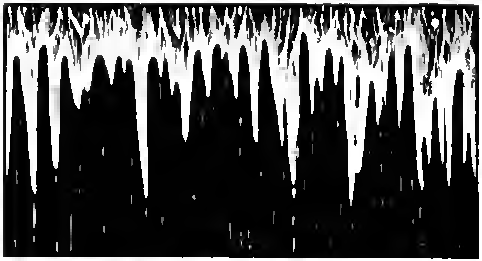
I-Ichi, there's no blood clot anywhere...!!
...None!!


...I-I'm sorry, Ichi.
I must've jumped to conclusions...!
No, Sabu!
We knew from the start that the murder weapon wasn't a sword...!
What I wanted to know... was his skill.
...Convinced yet...?
I will pardon your insolence today...
But let me make this clear...!
...Next time you hinder my path, I will kill you!!

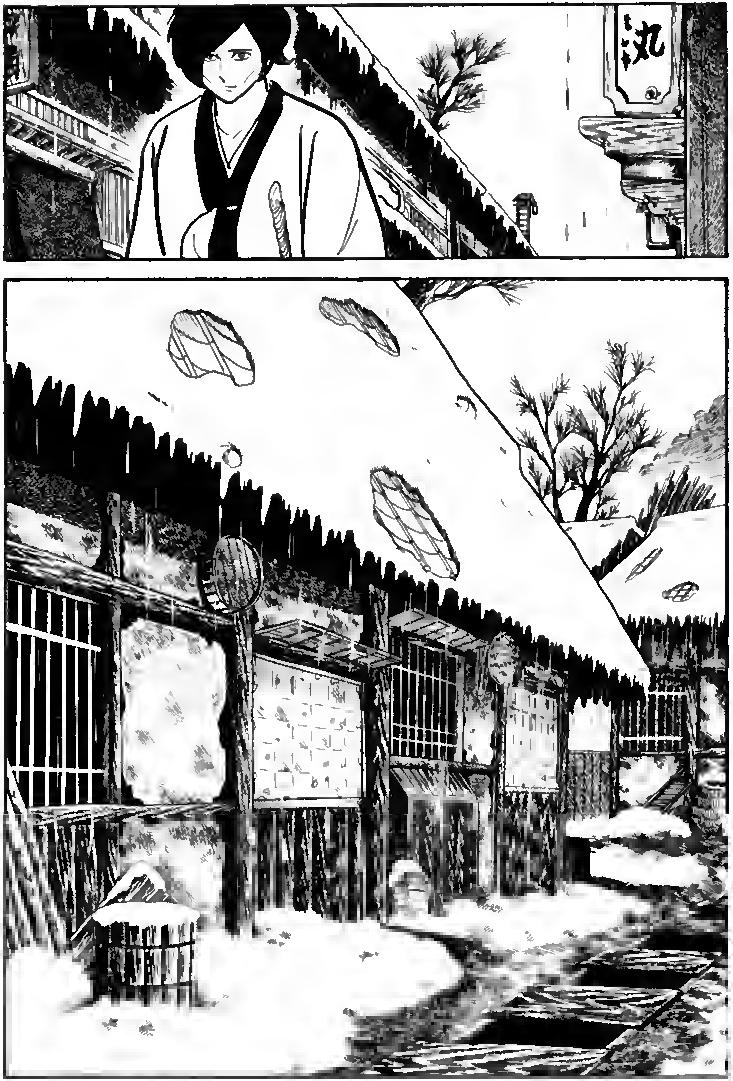

T-That's it, Ichi!
I felt a sharp sense of determination... of drive, that wasn't simply bloodlust...
Well... his techniques were one thing, but he also had... how should I put this...
And he was fairly skilled...

Yes, it was because of that sense of "determination"!
I-I felt that too, when I called out to him and couldn't say anything...

So I suddenly... got a feeling... that it wasn't him...
His eyes!
His eyes were very pair, serene, and earnest...
....Sabu, whether or not your intuition is right...
Why don't you look into that ronin a little more..?

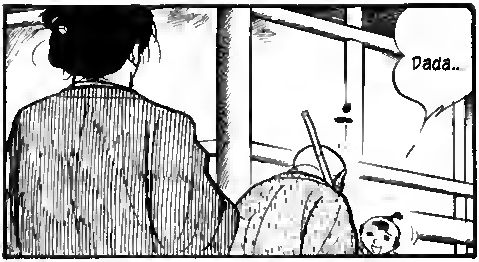


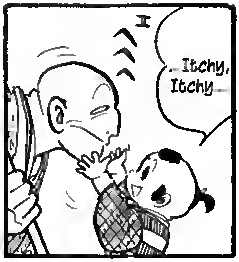
薬種
小町屋
丸秋丹圓


汎

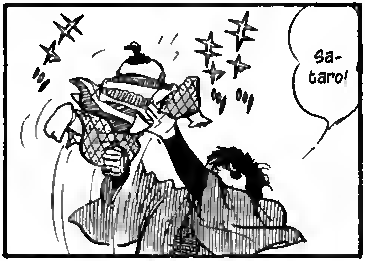
...Welcome back.
I brought you some medicine ..!
...to buy me such expensive medicine...
...I-I'm sorry... For causing you all this trouble,
Don't worry, Yae... I swear, I will heal your illness...
With my own two hands ...!!

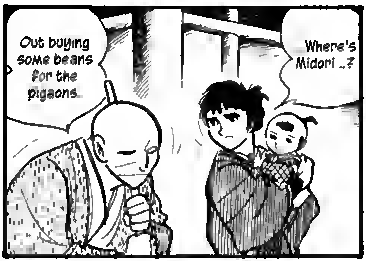
Coo-coo!
Coo-coo!
Coo-coo!
Coo-coo!
..Well, I'm off to buy some beans... Ichi, take care of Sataro while I'm gone..
Oh, what's this, Sata? All the coo-coos flew away?

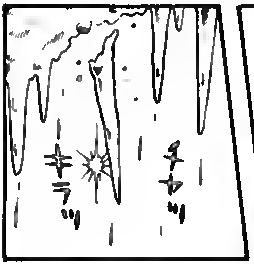

Dada..

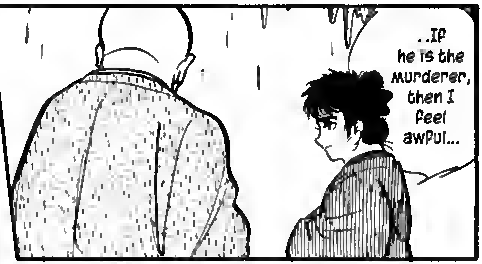

...Itchy, Itchy...

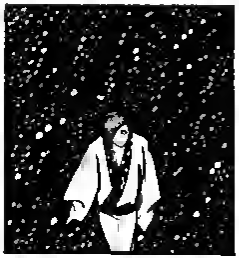
...You seem to be in a bad mood, Sabu.. What happened...?
Takagaki Genshiro ...

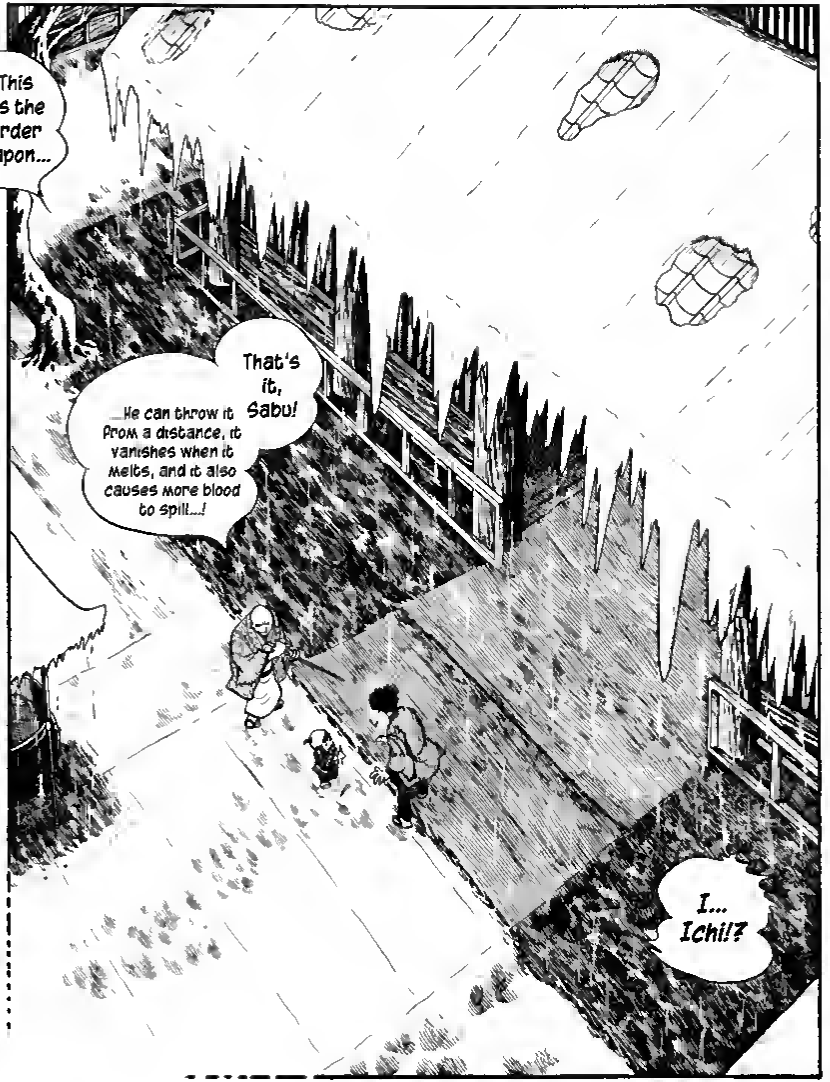

Sa-taro!

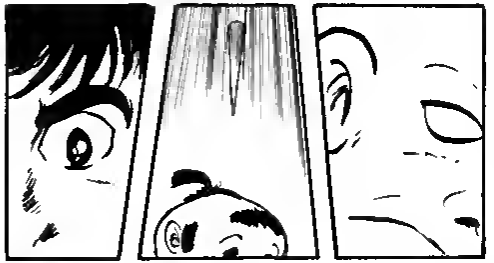

Out buying some beans for the pigeons.
Where's Midori ..?

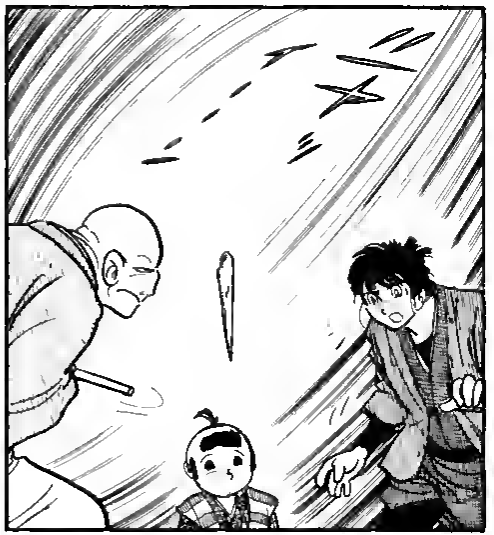


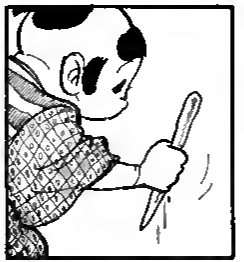

..If he is the murderer, then I feel awful...




...This was the murder weapon...
That's it, Sabu!
...He can throw it from a distance, it vanishes when it melts, and it also causes more blood to spill...!
I... Ichi!?



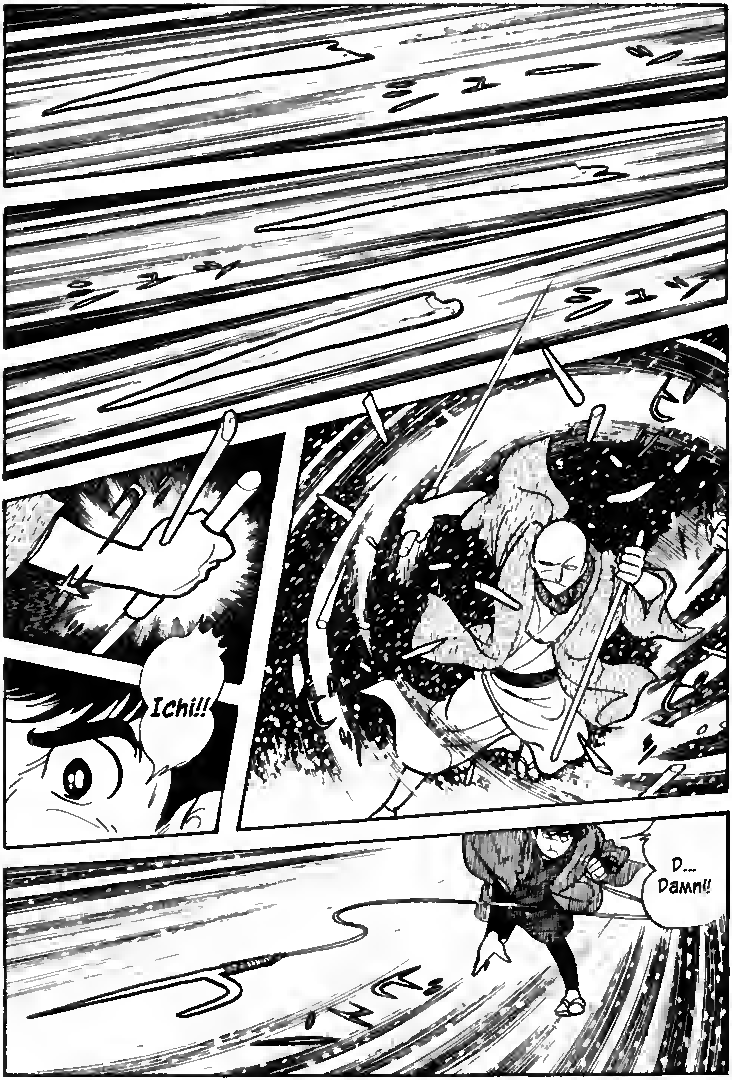




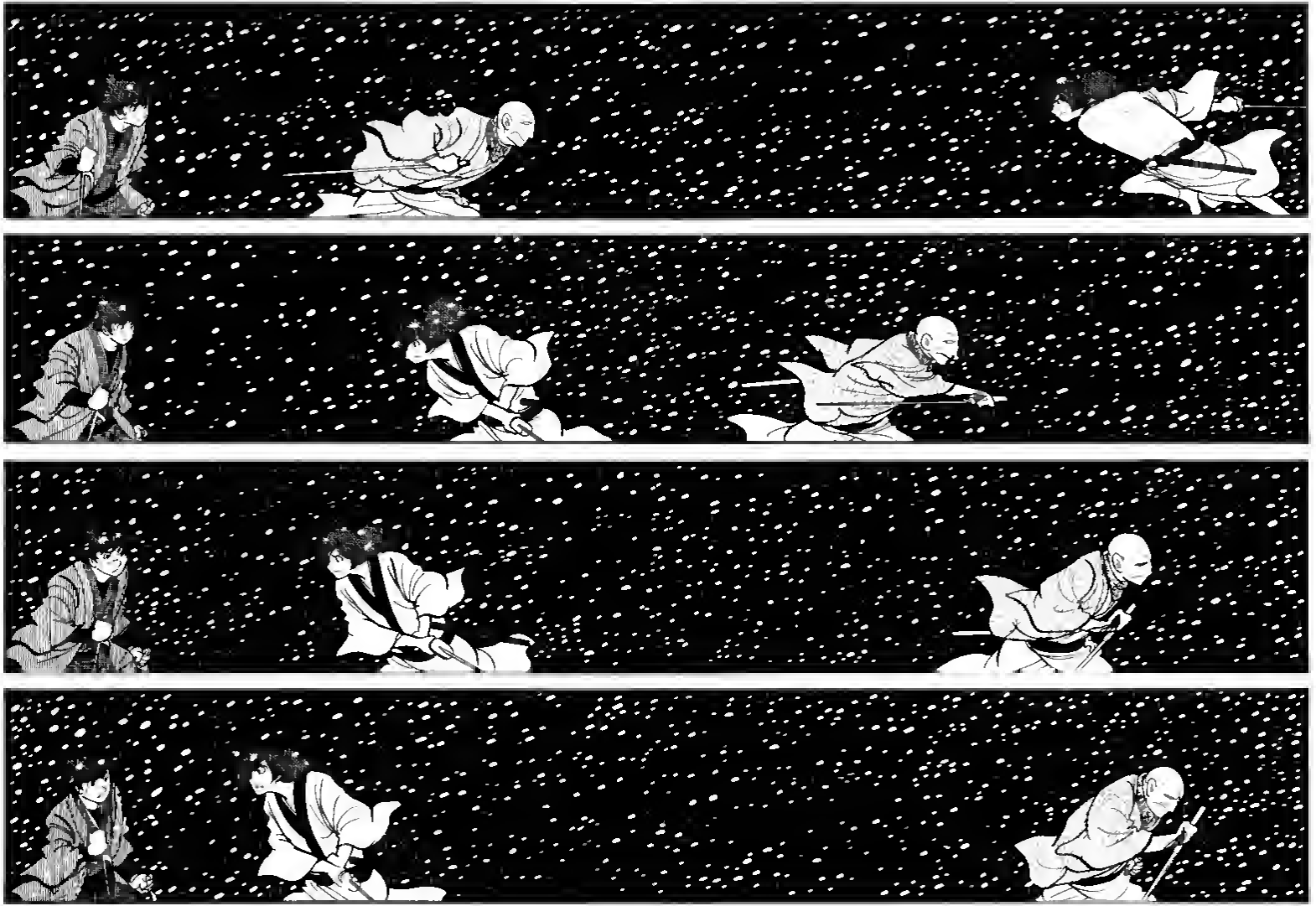
...We can't just let you go unhindered ...
.....
Do not hinder my path...!
...I thought I told you.
Jobs!?
.. Don't you feel a thing...!?
The bodyguard of Bizenya...
who was hired to kill Bizenya's sales clerk and labourer at the request of Aoumeya, who hated them...
...I knew it was you all along...!
.. My blood is frozen.
I killed them!
.. That is true... But I simply did the jobs that I could perform...!
...I wouldn't think so.
You wouldn't be so determined to help your wife if your blood were frozen, would you. .!?
But...
You chose the wrong way to make money... The men you slew had wives and children of their own!
Yes, we know...
You needed money to help your ill wife!
H-How would you know...!?
And in my battle... Good people and evil people are all the same!!
I-I am in battle!!
..So would one of those good people have helped me ..!?
That's right...

What else could I have done...!?
Me and my wife!?
Who would help
. He's not running away... Sabu, he's...
W-Wait!!
T-That's right! The icicles...!!

LOOK OUT!!

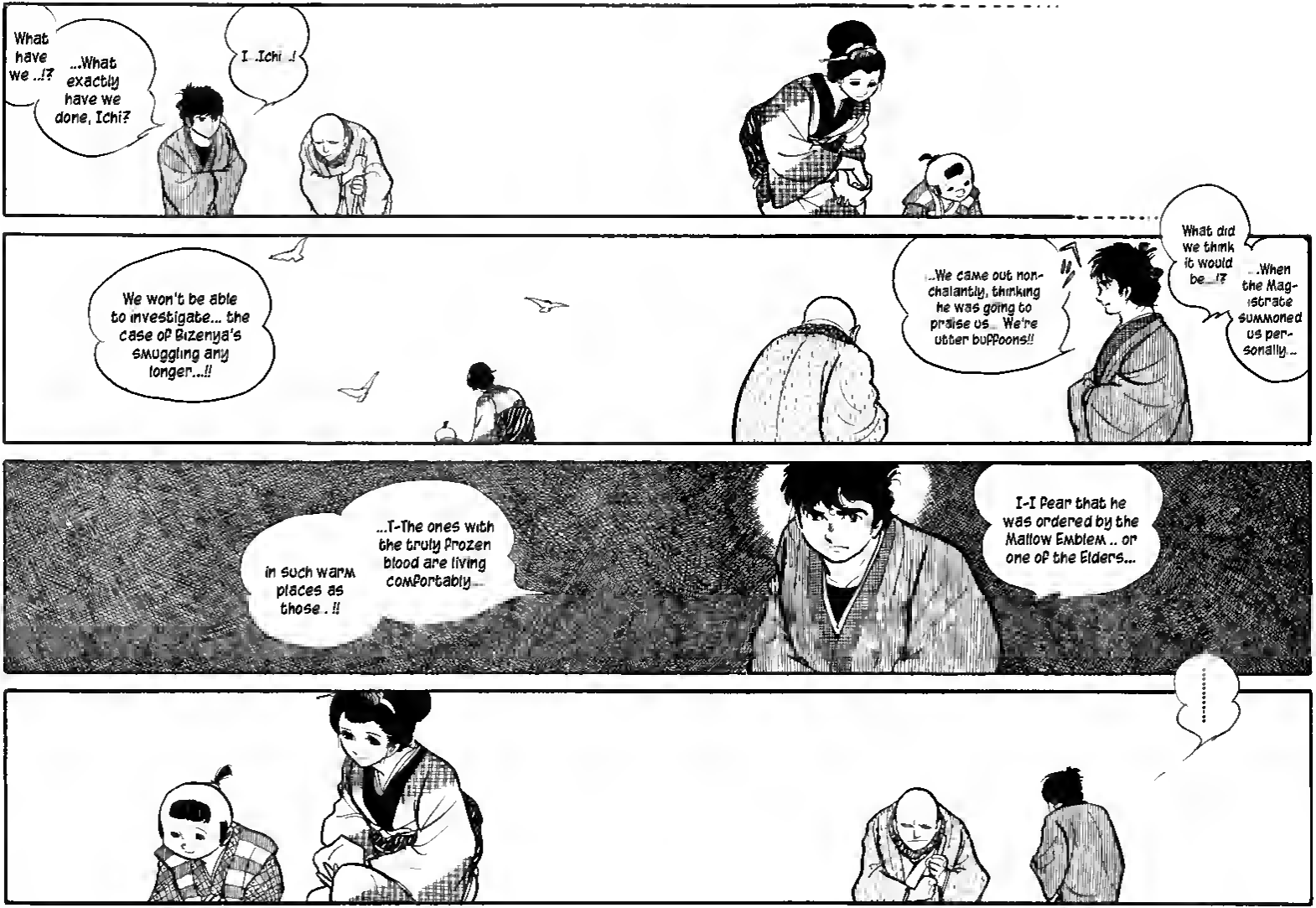

Ichi!!
D... Damn!!

Huh...?
Nngh!!

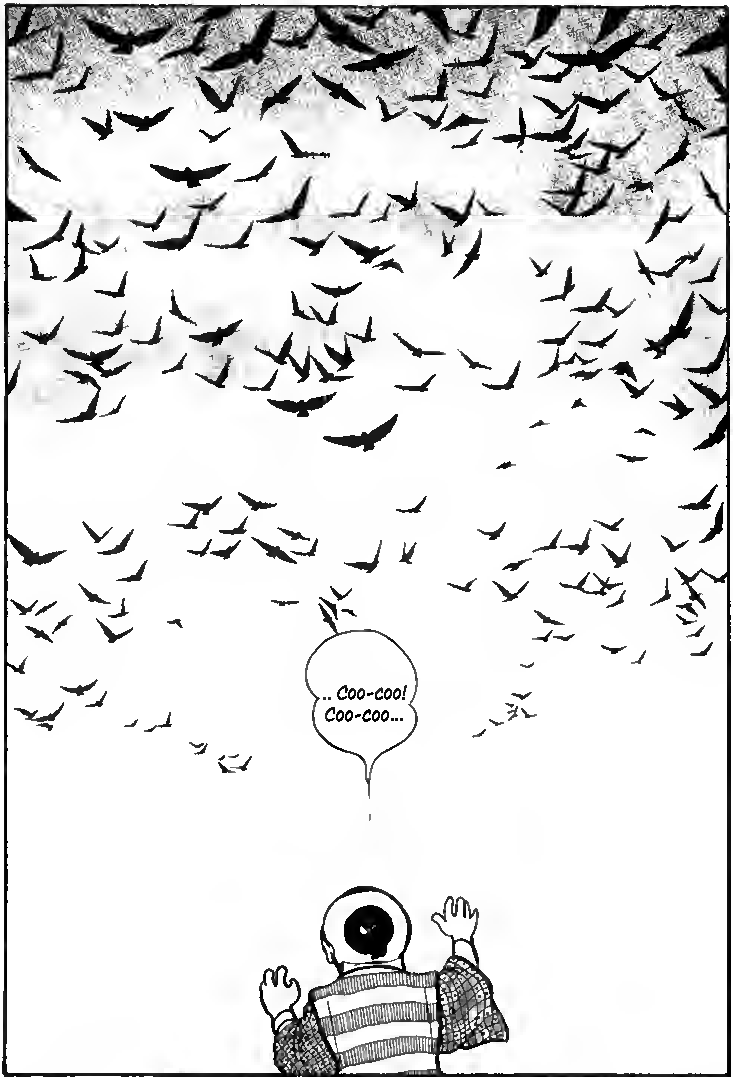


...but by Bizenya... Aoumeya . h-had long since belonged to Bizenya...
...I was not .. hired by Aoumeya. .
W-What!?
I...I went in and out... of Aoumeya just .. to prepare for the worst...
S...So what about the palanquin-bearers!?
T..They were taking a b-bribe from Bizenya to the c-court noble. .
w-was to seal the lips... of those who uncovered their smuggling...
...And the reason I killed... Bizenya's sales clerk and labourer...
was a well-known fact... to Ohara .. the lieutenant...
Bizenya's smuggling...

...!
...The Elder... the Mallow Emblem. they are all connected!
H...How could a. . poor ronin... like me... s...tand against them...!?
...It looks like this is what he meant... when he said his blood was frozen...!


What have we ..!?
...What exactly have we done, Ichi?
I ..Ichi ..!
We won't be able to investigate... the case of Bizenya's smuggling any longer...!!
...We came out nonchalantly, thinking he was going to praise us... We're utter buffoons!!
What did we think it would be...!?
...When the Magistrate summoned us personally...
in such warm places as those . !!
...T-The ones with the truly frozen blood are living comfortably...
I-I fear that he was ordered by the Mallow Emblem .. or one of the Elders...
.....

GOD-DAMN IDIOT !!


.. Coo-coo!
Coo-coo...

佐武と市捕物控[13]　散桜記

小学館文庫

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（検印廃止）

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SABU & ICHI
CHAPTER 83
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